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THE AMERICAN will hereafter be published semi-weekly, appearing each Wednesday and Saturday, in an issue of eight pages.

The change will add to the value of the Notes on Current Events, an important department in which THE AMERICAN has earned an enviable reputation. In addition, each issue will contain carefully prepared articles furnishing the best thoughts of the ablest writers in the various departments of Literature, Science, Art and Politics.

The contents of THE AMERICAN will, as heretofore, consist of new and original articles, written expressly for its columns, and not reprinted from a daily paper.

At the same time, the subscription price will be reduced to THREE DOLLARS PER ANNUM. Subscriptions already paid at the old rate will be proportionately extended.

WEEKLY NOTES.

SOME delay has occurred in getting the Star Route cases before the proper tribunal at Washington. The President, it seems, is not satisfied with the way in which the cases against the Ring have been gotten up, and is determined to make haste slowly in the matter. As several Government prosecutions under Mr. GRANT's Administration broke down because the evidence had not been sifted with sufficient care before its presentation, delay may be the wisest kind of haste. It will be enough if the Star Route Ring are brought to punishment within a year after the first official disclosure of their peculations. Of course there is a disposition on the part of the criminals to charge that the weakness of the case for the prosecution furnishes the motive to delay. Throughout the proceedings, Gen. BRADY and his accomplices have shown this readiness to grasp at anything on which they could build a case against the prosecution. But the public have reason to believe that Mr. GARFIELD and those whom he trusts are in good earnest in this matter. They mean to make this investigation thorough, at whatever sacrifice of political reputations. And if Mr. BRADY and his friends are able to show that they have received guilty support from any who have been high in power or in the confidence of the country, they will have, sooner or later, every opportunity to do so. Thus far, with the possible exception of Mr. KEYS, no one on the Independent or Reform side of the party has been lowered in public opinion by these disclosures. All the indications point to damage to the Stalwarts and to the Democrats from a thorough investigation. It is true that there is no evidence before the country on which an indictment can be framed against any individual outside the Ring. And there has been a disposition to exaggerate the evidential force of trifling circumstances, in order to bring home the guilt to some public men. But it is not to be expected that this investigation will end without doing a good deal of damage to the reputation of public men who are not members of the Star Route Ring. That Ring could not have conducted its operations so long, and with such impunity in the face of repeated exposure, unless it had enjoyed political protection to an extent which has not been disclosed. Mr. GARFIELD expressed his desire to have the investigation cut to the bottom. Like Mr. GRANT in the matter of the Whiskey Ring, he wishes to "let no guilty man escape." But we are sure that he will not, like Mr. GRANT, retract his order of severity because he finds some of his "friends" implicated in the offence. And yet this is the charge made in some quarters. A Washington correspondent, professing to write in the interest of Mr. MACVEAGH and of severity to the Ring, declares that it is the President and Mr. BLAINE who are tying the hands of the Attorney-General. As for Mr. BLAINE, the public have begun to recognize that he is the wicked brownie who does all the bad things of this Administration. The President's acts, we feel assured, will speak for him in this matter.

MR. SECRETARY WINDOM's conversion to the cause of Civil Service Reform seems to be established. His experience of the pressure of applications for office in his Department has satisfied him that we need better methods than those now current, and that in the interest of the heads of Departments, if not of the Country, a change is urgent. The Times of New York recommends Mr. WINDOM to study the actual results of the reform as applied to the New York Custom House by Mr. MERRITT, and enumerates the gains to the country in a better class of

officials and a better spirit in the administration. This comes with a bad grace, right after The Times' exposure of the treatment which travellers and their baggage receive at the hands of these model officials. And besides it does not cover the ground. The advocates of the reform do not profess to find its motive in the inferior quality of our Civil Service. They do not charge that it is worse than the service secured by private firms and corporations. If they did they might be confuted easily. The good record made by the Bureau of Internal Revenue, and the management of the New York Post Office by Mr. JAMES, are evidence of what can be done by honest superiors to secure honest and capable agents in the absence of any other sort of Reform of the service. They say that they wish to have the service cease to be what it now is in party politics, viz., a tremendous engine to prevent the free choice of candidates within the party, and the free choice of elective officials between the parties. On this point The Times has nothing to say. It could say nothing in praise of Mr. MERRITT on this score without retracting the explicit charges it made against him during the struggle of last spring for the Republican nominations. Either The Times is an unscrupulous slanderer—which we do not believe—or the competitive examination system which it advocates can be managed by such men as Collector MERRITT so as to defeat the chief end of Civil Service Reform.

MR. KNOX, the Controller of the Currency, is one of the most capable of our public officials. We have not been able to agree with many of his public utterances, but we respect his ability and his probity, and hope the Country may long enjoy his services. We therefore are pleased to find him engaged in an investigation into the nature of the operations of our banks which is novel and must prove useful. For two hundred and fifty years past, governments have been legislating for the regulation and restriction of credit money, but not one of them has ever taken the pains to ascertain the true nature of this engine of monetary power. They all have shown some knowledge of the nature of bank-notes; but no law on the statute-book of any civilized country shows any acquaintance with the nature of that other species of credit money, which exists only in entries in bank-ledgers, although its nature has been explained at much length by such economists as R. H. PATTERSON, H. D. MACLEOD, H. C. CAREY, and, above all, STEPHEN COLWELL, whose "Ways and Means of Payment" (Philadelphia, 1859), has never been surpassed by any later writer, if indeed it has been equalled by any. MR. KNOX, it is said, is investigating the operations of our banks, to ascertain exactly the basis on which their operations are conducted. In pursuing his researches he will find that while the paper-money of the banks is carefully restricted and guarded by law, they have the power to create credit-money of a more impalpable sort to any extent not forbidden by mere considerations of prudence, and that the extent to which they use this power is represented by hundreds of millions of dollars. He will find that while this power is indispensable to the movements of business, and as necessary to modern business as are the applications of electricity to modern civilization, that it is open to the largest abuses. At this moment, the free sale of banking credit in this shape is furnishing the means for hundreds of questionable or unsafe speculations, as it makes loans possible to such enterprises at rates far lower than they are entitled to. Some banks indeed seem to go upon the assumption that any sale of their credit is a remunerative one which gives them a return sufficient to insure them against loss by risky enterprises. What they sell costs them nothing but risk, and if paid so as to cover the risk they think they are getting a fair bargain. This may go on for a while, but a time will come when all the insurances against risk will be in the position of insurances against fire on the morning after the conflagration in New York half a century ago. They will be payable at once, and none of them paid. We will have a big bank and stock panic, involving New York, London and Paris exchanges in a common ruin. This all sound observers are now predicting for those cities of Europe, and the American symptoms are much the same.

The issue between the Free Traders and the Protectionists in Ohio marks the change of attitude toward this question which is taking place in the Western States. Formerly it was difficult to get even the Republicans of such a State into any sort of harmony with the general policy of their party. In these days even the Democrats fear to pronounce against Protection. Not only in Ohio, but in Michigan, Indiana, Illi-



nois and Minnesota Protection is the dominant sentiment; and Iowa and Wisconsin are falling into line. In the November election some Republicans dreaded the effect of carrying the Tariff issue into Indiana. But those who were better acquainted with the extent of manufacturing industry in that State, foresaw the success which would attend this movement. In Ohio the Protectionist Democrats are determined to resist Mr. FRANK HURD's proposals to the utmost, and have already secured a candidate of their own way of thinking in Mr. BOOKWALTER, a wealthy manufacturer of Springfield; and the chances of his nomination are said to be better than those of any other candidate.

THERE are indications of a large secession from the Republican party of Virginia. A considerable portion of the party have made up their minds to join the Repudiation party, and the leader of this faction has accepted a nomination from the Repudiators as Lieutenant Governor. It is now certain that these seceders will attempt to put in an appearance at the State Convention, called by the State Committee of the party, and the regular Republicans have abandoned the measures taken for their exclusion. But whether at the Convention or not, a good number of the Republican party seem about to slough off from the organization, and to abandon the principles of the party. We are glad to see that General WICKHAM and Mr. JORGENSEN, with the majority of the State Committee, are standing true to their colors. The Old Dominion has been disgraced sufficiently since the war, by the conduct of the Democrats of all factions. Mr. MAHONEY and his Democrats are the more outspoken in their purpose to repudiate the State's obligations; but Mr. JOHNSTON and the more respectable wing of the party cannot be acquitted of seeking a compromise with the Repudiating tendency. There is one party in the State which has stood for public honesty throughout, but the effacement of the Republican party by this new movement would leave the State without this redeeming feature of her politics.

AFTER four weeks of ineffectual voting at Albany, the Stalwart Republicans begin to see the hopelessness of their course, and it is said they are asking each other what they can save out of the wreck. At first they were disposed to offer to combine on Mr. CONKLING and an Administration Senator, but a little thought must have shown them that this was not to be hoped. It is said that Mr. ARTHUR, seeing the futility of trying to re-elect either of the ex-Senators, is seeking to adjust matters in such a way as to secure the choice of a man of his own selection, and upon whom he can depend. Hence the new prominence of Mr. CROWLEY, who was Mr. ARTHUR's candidate at the time when Mr. PLATT was elected. In this, as in every other part of the struggle, Mr. ARTHUR appears in his true character as the real head of the machine in that State. Mr. CONKLING has been the autocrat, in whose interest the machine was managed; but Mr. ARTHUR was the engineer, whose hand was felt in every movement,—the negotiator who stipulated the terms of every bargain,—the power behind the political throne. When people felt indignant at his appearance in Albany, it was because they did not appreciate the man at his real worth. They did not realize the fact that the chances of a hurried choice in a political convention had given the country a Vice-President whom no considerations of official dignity could keep away from such a struggle. They will not be surprised again by anything of this sort Mr. ARTHUR does.

Each week of the balloting begins with great confidence that an election is to be made that week. But as it proceeds, there is nothing to record except that insignificant legislators have transferred a few votes from X to Y or from Y to Z. Mr. WHEELER and Mr. DEPEW lead the administration candidates, with some fifty votes each. The Democrats vote as they began, except that they have substituted Mr. CLARKSON N. POTTER for Mr. JACOBS, on finding that the latter was ineligible under the laws of the State. As the United States Senate has refused repeatedly to allow any State to define the qualifications of a Senator, the fear was an idle one; but Mr. POTTER is certainly the better candidate.

We see no likelihood that Mr. DEPEW can be elected, and we think the choice would be a very unhappy one. His position as the counsel of the N. Y. Central Railroad gives his opponents the chance to refuse him their support as a friend of monopolies. It is true that his record has been blameless in other respects, and his friends promise that he would give up his Railroad practice if elected Senator. But this does not cover the case. When the question of the State regulation of railroads was before a legislative commission two years ago, Mr. DEPEW appeared as the attorney of those corporations, and took grounds which were inconsistent with any governmental control of them. No one supposes that Mr. DEPEW was merely uttering words which his clients put into his mouth. He has given the country no reason to think that he has changed his mind since that date. He would go to the Senate pledged before the world to oppose any such legislation as that proposed by Mr. REAGAN of Texas. Besides, although it is a hardship for a man to be excluded from a Senatorship because of a charge which has not

been proved, it will be unwise to elect Mr. DEPEW, and thus to put it in the power of a Democratic majority in the national Senate to throw him out on the strength of Mr. BRADLEY's story. To vote against Mr. DEPEW on this ground does not involve any doubt of his probity. On the other hand, no one will be, because of his election, more sure that he has acted honestly. If Mr. BRADLEY's story had been broken down in the investigation, the case would have been different. But the matter stands just where it did, a question of veracity between two men of equally tainted reputation, and the case against any action which should assume Mr. DEPEW's innocence and eligibility, is strengthened greatly by the Grand Jury's indictment of Mr. SESSIONS for bribery.

THE appearance of a comet in the northeastern sky has been a topic of general discussion this week. A comet is of no more inherent interest to us than any other star, but their rarity as objects visible to the naked eye makes them to differ. This particular visitor has not been identified as yet with any of the three hundred catalogued by astronomers, and for aught that is known he may be the three hundred and first, and now first visible to human eyes. The world has got pretty well over its fear of such visitors, the failure of PLANTAMOUR's comet to do the mischief which was promised in 1870, having inspired a general contempt for the whole class. Although of immense size, comets have but little substance, being, it would seem, nothing more than the chips and leavings which were discarded in the making of our system, or which, instead of settling down into proper connection with some orderly planet, have chosen to be eccentric, and to keep running in and out through space as privileged characters. As they move generally in parabolic orbits, it is somewhat strange that they ever manage to get back to the sun after once making their tour; for the parabola is not, like the circle and the ellipse, a complete and rounded curve. But, perhaps the new mathematics, with its n dimensions of space, makes this clear.

MR. BERGH's crusades in favor of his clients the animals do not always commend themselves to the better judgment of his countrymen. But there will be general regret that he failed to put a stop to the pigeon-shooting matches at Coney Island. This watering place, like most of its kind, has been suffering from the unseasonable weather of the fore-summer. To bring visitors some kind of special attraction must be found; and it is not creditable to the public upon whose patronage they counted, that this choice was made. Pigeon-shooting is a European barbarity invented by the idle and lazy classes of the most degenerate and luxurious sections of European society. It requires indeed skill in the use of the rifle, but it involves wholesale torture of innocent birds, and their useless slaughter under circumstances which must prove more hardening to the heart than any ordinary sportsmanship. This cruel and lazy amusement is utterly an exotic on our soil,—as exotic as is the class of idle young men who affect to patronize it. And yet multitudes of both sexes attended the display, and the newspapers gave their columns to reports of the skill shown by these elegant butchers, as though it were as innocent as a lawn tennis tournament. These same papers are constantly taking the moral and religious interests of the community under their care, and giving the ministers free lectures on the art of soul-saving.

We hear once more that Lord LORNE is about to return from Canada,—that his Princess cannot endure the colonists, and does not mean to go back, and so forth. We do not give these rumors any credit. Lord LORNE is far less likely to be recalled, since the Liberals are in power, and his management of Canadian affairs has been fairly successful. It is true that he has won no such popularity as did his predecessor, Lord DUFFERIN, and that his attempt to transplant the usages of the English court to the Democratic soil of Canada has been a signal failure. But Lord DUFFERIN is a man of rare gifts—an Irishman with the blood of the SHERIDANS in his veins, and much of their half-blarneying humor in his head. He knew how to make the Canadians believe in themselves, and to feel that Canada was the "making" of a great country. The CAMPBELLS have no such gifts; they are more Lowland than Celtic in their character. They have integrity, directness, common sense, but they are cold and narrow, with tendencies to hardness and selfishness. They have never inspired affection, nor, outside their dependents, enthusiasm. Lord LORNE's strong point has been his devotion to literature. With but a scanty gift of poetry, he passes for a man of letters; and he has set himself to do what is possible for the promotion of literary culture in Canada. To this end he is laboring to establish an Academy after the French model. It is the fashion—set by Lord MACAULAY—to despise Academies and similar agencies for the governmental patronage of literature. But the fashion is not a very wise one, and we may hope that the Canadian Academy will remain as a lasting and useful monument of Lord LORNE's rule in Canada.

THE Canadians are discussing the award secured in redress of the Fortune Bay outrages, and are asking whether England or New-

foundland is to pay the £15,000 which has been handed over to our Government. We have no doubt that Newfoundland will have to pay it. Of course it may seem hard to assess her for damages with regard to whose payment she had no voice. But then she is a colony, under colonial tutelage, and not entitled to any opinion of her own. She has the advantage of being a colony. We could not blockade her ports or seize her fishing fleet. We had to make our complaint in Downing Street and ask redress there. And with the advantages she must take the drawbacks. She must see the mother country do business for her in all diplomatic transactions, without looking to be consulted. And she must pay her fine and make no faces. For a weak colony like Newfoundland, this may be advantageous. But the law is just the same for Canada, however she may dislike it. "The silken rein of the imperial connection," as it is called by those who love it best, means colonial tutelage for the Dominion as well as for the dull, misty island which refuses to be part of the Dominion. It is by the condescension of an English Minister that Canada is taken into council in the settlement of the Fisheries question; and if English interests suggested concessions to America which Canada disliked, they would be made in spite of her opposition. The British connection fastens the Dominion to the politics and the interests of a system, with which she has little or nothing in common.

It is reported that Mr. GLADSTONE means to ask "urgency" for the Land Bill; i. e. that each of the thousand amendments to its six thousand lines be voted without debate, and the bill hurried on to its final passage. As urgency cannot be voted without the support of a majority of the Tories, there is little likelihood that Mr. GLADSTONE will make such a request, and none at all that it will be granted if he make it. Not only the Tories would refuse to support the demand, the whole Irish delegation—Tories, Liberals, Home Rulers and Land Leaguers—would unite in opposing it. The first want some farther concessions to the landlord interest; the rest want amendments in favor of the tenants sufficient to balance the concessions already made to the landlords in the matter of compensation. The Government, in order to conciliate the House of Lords, have adopted several amendments of this latter sort, and have thereby weakened their own position. The Liberals who represent Ulster constituencies have been arrayed by these against the measure as it now stands, and are indisposed to support it on the final passage. We are told, it is true, that there is more show than reality of opposition from this quarter, and that the show is in deference to the feelings of their constituents. Which is the same as saying that the feeling of Ulster, the loyal and Protestant province, has been turned against Mr. GLADSTONE's reform, and its representatives have to give way to that feeling. Being mostly English and Scotch liberals, the Ulster members possibly do not feel very strongly in the matter. But they know how the Northern Irish farmer feels, and that they cannot depend on a re-election unless they make Mr. GLADSTONE feel that every class of Irish tenants is dissatisfied with his proposal.

THE curious revolution in Spanish politics, which took place some months ago, and which substituted a more liberal ministry for the party of reaction, seems to prosper. The new ministry have the support of the constituencies, and are bringing the affairs of the kingdom to a more tolerable situation. Since the adoption of the measure providing for the gradual extinction of slavery in the colonies, the question of Protection or Free Trade has come into prominence in Spanish politics. Madrid seems to be the chief centre of Free Trade influence and sentiment, being situated in a province which is interested much more in agriculture and cattle grazing than in manufactures. Besides, the west of the kingdom has long profited by the sort of "Free Trade" in British goods which is carried on through Portugal and Gibraltar. It is in the east, in Valencia and Catalonia, that the Protectionist feeling is strongest. The Catalans are the Yankees of the peninsula, a wide-awake practical people, largely interested in manufactures. The Minister of Commerce in a Spanish Ministry is more often a Catalan than a native of any other province. The kingdom has long been regarded as a persistently Protectionist country; and it is not likely to abandon this national tradition at a time when the rest of Europe are giving their adherence to it.

THE negotiations for a new treaty of commerce between France and England have only resulted in showing the existence of irreconcilable difference between the two countries. England asks that the new treaty be a revision of that of 1860. France insists on starting from the general tariff, recently adopted by the *Corps Legislatif*. And neither party will yield on this point to the other. The English dread the operation of the new tariff, because its duties are specific, while those of the treaty were mainly *ad valorem*. England, both in her governmental practice and in the teachings of her economists, has favored specific duties as the better method; but she knows that a duty meant to be protective is far more effective when specific. Hence her insistence on a basis for negotiations different from that proposed by

France. As the English House of Commons has adopted a resolution against a commercial treaty on the basis of the new French tariff, the English commissioners could do nothing but withdraw from the conference and await further instructions from their own Government. As the negotiations promise to be prolonged, the French Ministry have introduced into the Chamber of Deputies a bill extending for three months longer the operation of the Treaty of 1860. This is the only sign, thus far, of a disposition to come to terms with England; and even this measure is by no means certain to pass the Senate.

THE newsmongers of the Atlantic telegraph have seen fit to send us a long lecture from *The Times* of London, on the enormities of the International Monetary Conference. *The Times* is grieved to find that unsound doctrines as to the relation of governments to money and the powers of Government for its regulation are ventilated in the Conference, with no contradiction from the English delegates, and with manifest approval from the representative of India. It repeats the common assertions of English economists, that Governments have no functions as regards money, except to stamp it with the marks which indicate the weight and fineness of the coin. Did the English Government exercise no other function when Lord LIVERPOOL's ministry demonetized silver? Did the German and Scandinavian Governments exercise no other when they followed English example? *The Times* is quite right in rejecting the doctrine that Governments are omnipotent in the matter of determining the purchasing power of gold or silver, or their relations of value. But it should have the sense to perceive that Government action in the monetization or demonetization of the precious metals is one of the most important elements in regulating the demand for either, and thus fixing their market price. Germany certainly helped to force down the price of silver by expelling that metal from her circulation; and the restoration of the metal to our own coinage has helped greatly to its recovery in value in recent years. It is this which has relieved East Indian finance from those serious embarrassments which a few years ago caused the *The Times* to express a hope that Mr. WELSH's successor in London would be a man fitted to persuade English statesmen of the wisdom of bi-metallism. We can wait for the reconversion of the *The Times* by the logic of facts. And this change will come all the sooner, if America will but let go the burden she is holding up from the shoulders of the nations of Europe.

FRANCE is increasing her responsibilities on the South side of the Mediterranean at a time when she is finding it hard enough to control what she already had. The insurrection of the native tribes in the Oran district of Algeria is one of the most serious France has encountered for many years, and there has been a signal display of incapacity in the military and civil officials who have been entrusted with the work of its suppression. This is the reason for the removal of M. ALBERT GREVY, a near kinsman of the French President, from the Governorship of the province. M. GREVY has been far from a good Governor, and nothing but his influence with the President has prevented his removal a year ago, when his relations to French commercial and mining companies in Algeria began to be understood. It was he who at the instance of these companies laid the train which led to the annexation of Tunis. But his failures in Algeria have worn out the public patience, and he is recalled to France.

ITALY is laboring to escape out of the quagmire of irredeemable paper money, in which she has been plunged ever since the unity of the country under VICTOR EMMANUEL was effected. She is trying to borrow in foreign bourses the sum needed for the conversion of her paper into government bonds; and there is every reason to expect that in the present condition of the money market she will be successful. Her bonds are certainly much better security than are the stocks of the innumerable speculations which are finding favor on every exchange. There can be little doubt that American example has had much to do with the purpose of Italy to resume specie payments. But if she were acquainted more exactly with the unpleasant features of the process as carried through in America—with the pitiable sufferings of men who had borrowed at fifty or seventy-five cents on the dollar, but had to pay one hundred, and with the consequent spread of discontent and wild monetary theories—she might have hesitated before making the attempt, to ask what could be done to prevent such hardships and mischief. The only way of escape we can think of would be for Italy to accept the depreciation of her monetary standard, taking the *lira* at its actual and not its nominal value in gold, and issuing a new coinage at the new standard. This she could substitute for her irredeemable paper, without changing the terms of every outstanding contract in favor of the seller or the lender. And if the new *lira* would not be a historic continuation of the old, but would represent by its very name a historic break from a former monetary system, the same might be said of the French *livre*, and the English *pound*.

REPUBLICANS AND REPUDIATORS.

WE are satisfied that the leaders of the Republican party are not aware of the very serious danger which the organization is now encountering. There have been plenty of indications during the past few years that there are new demands made on the party, and that it must either comply with these or forfeit the support of a large portion of the rising generation of voters. Every year is adding to the number of those who know nothing of that heroic age of Republicanism, in which its first victories were won, who recollect indeed the years of suspense and anguish which made up the civil war, but who demand of the party that it shall justify itself and its claims to power not by the deeds of 1854-60 or those of 1861-65, but by its attitude towards the questions of to-day.

The discontent which animates these voters is not merely diffused through large masses of voters; it is focussed energetically at points where its criticisms make themselves felt as a power in the land. It began to be felt in the somewhat futile efforts of the "young scratchers," who put in peril MR. CORNELL'S election as Governor of New York. It showed itself with a more decisive energy in the struggle of last year for the Republican nomination to the Presidency. The public may not know, but the politicians know that it forced the break from Boss rule in the New York and Pennsylvania delegations at Chicago, and that it suggested and effected the breaks from other candidates to MR. GARFIELD as fast as the nomination of each was shown to be impossible. The public may not know, but the politicians know that it threw itself into the work of the campaign, and secured the change from such effete issues as lost the Republicans Maine, to live issues such as won them Indiana. The public may not know, but the politicians know, that it organized the defeat of MR. OLIVER in Pennsylvania, and thus made possible that of MR. CONKLING in New York; and that it has aroused such opposition to the rule of the machine in this State, that even the Stalwarts do not dare to claim more than a few counties as still under their rule.

This new element has the future in its hands. It has shown that it can strike as easily as speak, and that it wastes no blows. It is heartily loyal to the principles of the Republican party. It believes in universal liberty, in strict public honesty, and in a vigorous national government; and it accepts all the corollaries of these three great principles. But it does not believe that these principles are bound to perish with any organization, and it is not satisfied with that which now represents them. Its loyalty to the Republican party is a dissatisfied loyalty. It has given warnings enough that there are limits to its patience. And to-day it stands expectant, asking the recognized leaders of the party in what direction they mean to steer it.

Since the beginning of the present Administration, this aggressive but critical element of the party has had little reason for satisfaction with the course events have taken. It can see no evidence of an honest purpose to reform the civil service of the country. Of reforms after the Turkish fashion, of personal vengeance upon individuals whom our system and methods led into temptation, we have had a fair amount. But of attempts to bring up the system itself to the level it occupies in civilized countries, and to destroy its baleful efficiency as a political engine, there is hardly a trace. Nothing has been done, even, to give effect to the very small amount of promise contained in the national platform, and in the candidate's letters of acceptance.

On another point the record of the party and its leaders has been still more unsatisfactory. The attitude of the Republican party on questions of public credit has been the most honorable and creditable part of its later record. In spite of the weakness shown by individual States and individual statesmen, the dominant purpose of the party has been the honest discharge of every public obligation, whether State, National or Municipal. In localities where Repudiating principles were in the ascendant, the Republican party has stood for honesty. It played a most honorable part in effecting Resumption of the State debt of Tennessee, although by supporting that measure it helped to remove the apple of discord which had divided its antagonists into hostile camps, and which thus had opened to itself the way to power. It is this part of the party's record which has constituted its best claim to be regarded as competent to deal with living questions in a right spirit.

But even before the Presidential election there were rumors of a purpose to abandon this honorable course, in the supposed interest of the party. There were rumors of negotiations with the leaders of the

Repudiating power in Virginia, and the claims of one Republican candidate were urged on the ground that he could command the support of MR. MAHONE and his followers, and thus bring Virginia into the Republican camp. But little weight was attached to this talk at the time; but since the election the matter has become much more serious. It is known that three Republicans, none of them members of Congress, but one of them a man who had filled that and much higher positions, were for weeks in confidential correspondence with MR. MAHONE, to secure his coöperation in the organization of the Senate. We cannot say what sort of credentials these emissaries bore. At any rate they seem to have represented the Republican side of the Senate, and to have been empowered to give MR. MAHONE such assurances as induced him to abandon the Democratic party with which he had always acted, and to cast his vote with its enemies. How well the Republicans had been represented by the three negotiators was seen in the substantial unanimity with which they supported the candidacy of two of MR. MAHONE'S friends for Senate offices. From first to last, the whole transaction was a political dicker, which was disgraceful to the party and to every Senator who took a hand in it.

Had MR. MAHONE been simply a Democrat, the transaction would have been both disgraceful and perilous. But in view of what MR. MAHONE is in the politics of his State, the disgrace and peril are indefinitely greater. MR. MAHONE has divided the Democratic party in Virginia on the issue of repudiating a part of the debt of the State. His opponents differ from him, first and foremost, in favoring a heavier taxation of the State and a more generous treatment of her creditors. It may be that they are only less repudiating in their proposals for a settlement than MR. MAHONE is. It is to be remembered, however, that the plan which they offer is one which has the sanction of such a financier as Hon. HUGH McCULLOCH, if it did not originate with him, while no one outside of the State has ever given his approval to the RIDDLEBERGER Bill which MR. MAHONE offers as his ultimatum. Let us put the case as well as his friends can ask it to be put. He is at least more of a Repudiator than the other Democrats; he proposes a less honest treatment of the State's creditors; he appeals to the cupidity of those who want lighter taxes. And on this statement of the facts what shall we say of Senators who throw the whole moral weight of the Republican party into his scale, and are now urging the President to extend to him every sort of support.

With MR. GARFIELD it rests to undo much of the mischief which has been done by this bargaining with MR. MAHONE. He can save the credit of the Republican party by giving his moral support and countenance to General WICKHAM, MR. JORGENSEN, and those other Republicans who are intent upon preserving the integrity of the party in Virginia, and who refuse to make it the tail of MR. MAHONE'S kite. He needs only to speak the word, and the plan to give the little Repudiating faction the control of the State Government by adding three Republican votes to each Repudiator's vote will be at an end. This he can do, for this he will be responsible if he does not do it. But one thing he can not do. He can not carry a united Republican party into a career which involves even the remotest complicity with the shameless dishonesty of MR. MAHONE and his Virginia "Liberals."

REPUBLICAN NEW DEPARTURE IN PHILADELPHIA.

IT is not an over statement of the case to say that for ten years the Government of the Republican party in Philadelphia has been despotic, vicious, destructive of the morale of the organization and against the popular interests. The party machinery, under control of the worst elements, has been employed, in many cases, without decency or mercy by bad men to maintain a bad supremacy. There was no incentive to do right when it paid better and was entirely safe to do wrong. Republicans of character, who helped to make the party and who continued to support it with purse, vote and public speech, stood back and allowed the traffickers to work the party as a mine for their personal aggrandizement. They absented themselves from the primaries or turned out in such slender force as to be easily overwhelmed in the balloting, eliminated in the count, or denied representation in the convention by the convenient committee on contests, to secure which committee there was ever a suspicious contention.

The people knew that they were frequently wronged—often they were mockingly cheated before their faces—but they listened to

appeals to trust "the party" just once more, "the party" being the men who had cheated and defied them. Occasionally the election of a Democrat was entered on the record as a protest, but that made no great impression on the managers of the party. There was great dissatisfaction in the party because of the prostitution of the organization, and this feeling broke out in open revolt when it became apparent that there was no appeal "within the party" against "the slate" as an established institution. The active managers refused to be warned in 1877 by the election of a Democratic City Controller by 1962 and District Attorney by 991 majority, when a Republican Mayor and City Solicitor were chosen by 7,000 majority. They awoke to some appreciation of the situation when, three years later, at the time of a Presidential election, they again lost the Controllershship by over 13,000 majority when a Republican District Attorney and the Presidential electors went through by more than 20,000. By this time it was painfully apparent to the leaders that something must be done.

There was a demand for the revision of the party rules, to which the managers were glad to accede, confident that, if they did not make, they would interpret and administer the new rules to their liking. A convention strongly made up of the reform element and the professional politicians, adopted a code of rules which has just gone into operation. Thanks to the well directed efforts of a few earnest and intelligent men who championed the cause of reform, the new rules are a great improvement on the old. They make radical changes in the party government and mark a long stride toward the emancipation of the party from the rule of its evil influences. No such concession to the popular will has ever before been made in Philadelphia. If the masses take hold in earnest it will be a rebuilding from the bottom and they can make the superstructure what they please.

This unequalled opportunity is the first fruit of a revolution which has swept away all the old forms and conditions. The occasion invites the party to take a fresh start on a new basis which recognizes the popular sovereignty. The first step is the formation of division associations on the third Tuesday of June of each year, so that once in every twelvemonth the party may look to its local roots. Each of these 689 associations elects a Board of Registering Officers, to which no officer of the National, State, or Municipal Government or of any department thereof is eligible. Where there are rival Associations and Registering Boards in a division, the contest is settled by the Ward Executive Committee. If the rival associations shall have been organized on the same evening under the rules the more numerous shall be recognized as regular. "If only one Association was organized as provided for by the rules that one shall be the regular association." Where voters take any interest in party affairs it will be very difficult for the schemers to overcome them, but the start is not all that was to be desired. While in some divisions the reformers came out strongly a week ago last Monday evening, in one division electing to the Registering Board so excellent a citizen as the Hon. John Welsh, ex-Minister to the Court of St. James, who has since declined because of his years, in many divisions there would have been no association formed if the "workers" had not undertaken the task. A week later, at the election of two Ward Executive Committees the showing was not much better.

There are prompt complaints of insufficient notice, but the event had been freely discussed and formally announced in nearly all of the daily newspapers of the city, so that ignorance could not well be pleaded in extenuation of delinquency. It is to be hoped that the new weapon of defence will be more largely employed when Republicans shall have become more familiar with it. The Registering Officers are to enter in a book the names and residences of all Union Republican voters known to them in their respective divisions, and it is their further duty to sit on the Tuesday next preceding each primary election, from six to nine o'clock P. M., to add the names of all persons claiming the right to vote, "and no name shall be added after said meeting."

The convention escaped a rock of destruction when it came to the qualification of a Republican voter. A large element insisted upon a pledge to support the ticket at the next election. The better sense of the majority framed a more liberal and politic test. If the question of qualification arises it is sufficient that the voter shall have supported the Republican ticket "for National or State officers at the preceding National or State election," a requirement which is not unfair and admits a large body of men who would not pledge themselves to support a ticket

before they had submitted it to the test of conscience. Two vouchers satisfy a challenge. A new and not very valuable feature is, notice by postal card to each Republican voter in the division of the primary election to be held on the third Tuesday in September and the second Monday in January. The rule does not say how long or how short the notice is to be, and a cunning man at the head of a Division Association might easily regulate that to mislead. The provision is not important, either for what it commands or for what it omits, since the primary election is always matter of notoriety.

One of the best of the new rules, and that which if strictly enforced will contribute largely to honest primaries, disqualifies office holders to act as election officers, and makes any officer ineligible to serve two consecutive years. The necessity of getting the office holders on the outside and the people on the inside has long been recognized as a condition precedent to fair play at the primaries or any radical reform in party management. But the office holders refused to be put out and nothing short of an absolute prohibition promised relief. Even now the reform will not be great if the people stand back and allow the office holders to do by proxy of their clients what the party law forbids them to do in person.

In place of the old City Executive Committee, which did so much to make party management offensive, there is to be a Campaign Committee, composed of two members from each ward, one of whom shall not be an office holder, elected by the Ward Executive Committee. A member of this committee may not be a candidate for any City or County office during his membership, but all candidates except judicial and magisterial shall be *ipso facto* members of the Committee during their candidacy. There will be no more of the old-time struggle to secure the committee on contests, that strong voting in committee may pack the convention and defeat the popular will. The delegates are to be commissioned by their divisions, and that certificate shall be conclusive. Any contests which may arise must be settled in the division at the time and place of election—a very wholesome departure from the old method which placed all the candidates in the hands of unscrupulous men, for them to juggle with.

There was a loud demand in the party and in the convention to revise the rules for the exclusion of office holders from conventions, but this sentiment did not prevail. It therefore remains for Republicans desirous of accomplishing the best things for the party to exert themselves at the commencement. If they are careful to perform all their duties and avail themselves of all their privileges under the new rules, they will elect such delegates as will speak for them in conventions and whose deliberations will result in the selection of the best men.

Other changes, in themselves of minor importance, but all contributing to the better ordering of the party's affairs, have been made and are now in operation. Though the new code does not embody all that the friends of reform proposed, it makes law of demands which five years ago were scouted as the impossible fancies of dreamers. The time had come when the people would no longer be put off with promises nor overridden with arrogance. They spoke their will through the Committee of One Hundred, to which they were determined to delegate all necessary powers, in total exclusion of any "regular" organization, if they found reform within the old lines to be impossible. It was a wise party which listened to the admonition. If enforced in spirit as well as in letter, the new rules will lift the party management out of the mire into which it had fallen and place it upon an eminence of honesty and dignity, where all men may see its operation and the best Republican shall not be ashamed of it. The people must look to their own. The politicians will not be unmindful of their duty to themselves—they never are; and in this they set an example well worthy of emulation. If this experiment shall fail there will be so great an increase of independent voting in Philadelphia that party rules will be of less moment than now, for in the hundred thousand Republicans of Philadelphia there is a large preponderance of manliness, intelligence and virtue.

Happily, the new rules are fortified by "an act to prevent bribery and fraud at nominating elections, nominating conventions, in returning boards, county or executive committees and at election of delegates to nominating conventions in the several counties in this commonwealth," passed at the recent session of the Legislature and approved by the Governor the day before adjournment. The bill attracted little attention while it was on its passage, or many of its inequalities might have been removed. It is, however, another step in the right direction,

and recognizes the essential principle that party elections and nominating machinery come properly under State regulation.

Between the Act of Assembly and the new rules the Republican party has the best opportunity it has had in its history to put down the enemies in its own household and conduct itself so that it shall be worthy of the respect and confidence of all good citizens. The frame work of law is fair. The people must put into it whatever of wholesome moving life it is to have.

PUBLIC OPINION.

THE COMET.

SCIENCE is evidently not a strong point of the American press. No new subject of recent date has been so thoroughly talked about in the newspapers as the Comet which has so lately made its appearance. Not even the very best of the papers have much of value to say, and the majority attempt to make up for depth of learning on the subject by treating it facetiously, and generally with an allusion to Mr. Conkling and Mr. Platt, or else by flings at the knowledge of the Astronomers. As the Springfield *Republican* says, "the thin veneer of civilization peels off pretty rapidly under the presence of a comet. Theoretically, actually, by study, by observation, by tradition, by essay, treatise and manual, one comet is much like another, and all are of no consequence, of no danger, of no influence,—negative, nebulous nothings." Even the *Republican* has its fling at the astronomers and says, "Astronomy has made great progress, doubtless, but astronomy is still a good deal like fishing; you can order your tackle easier than you can get a bite, and having invented the spectroscope 18 years ago or so, and made ready to spy the 'comet's congregated fires,' the astronomer—several hundreds of him—has been waiting ever since to bag his comet, to map its lines and draw its spectra, to learn if its light sprang from gas or cosmic dust, nebulous mist or whirling meteors." The staid New York *Evening Post* treats the comet lightly, saying "Perhaps light treatment of the subject is the easier and safer. The unprofessional mind is apt to lose its balance in view of the serious suggestions of the comet. If it is an entirely new one, the spaces which it has traversed, the comparative eternities which its past career represents and its future course foreshadows, far transcend any conception of which thought is capable. The passage from the humorous to the rhetorical is as easy in such a case as is the passage from the sublime to the ridiculous in others; and rhetoric is so adequate to the theme as to seem cheap and flimsy." The most startling statement, though, is that of the Knoxville, Tenn., *Chronicle*, which is as follows: "It is best to repent and make a square confession. The comet has stolen upon us like a thief in the night, and found most of the press unprepared; still there is ample time for a sort of death-bed repentance which is all that is left now."

But the *Tribune* also treats the subject seriously, and says:—"As a possible disturber of the public peace, either by actual collision or by a near approach, a comet is not likely to be a conspicuous success. Aside from the popular curiosity concerning the comet, and the stimulus which may thus be indirectly given to astronomical studies generally, the appearance of any large comet is a matter of considerable scientific interest. Little is known about the nature of these visitors. No theory, for instance, has yet been offered which satisfactorily explains the phenomena of a comet's tail." To the N. Y. *Sun* "there is something exceedingly impressive in the thought that great comets probably wander from sun to sun, travellers through the universe. Now one visits us, and some millions of years hence it may glow in the morning and evening skies of the worlds that circle about Sirius or Aldebaran." The *Troy Times* thinks it a good subject of conversation, and says: "The people have suddenly found something beside the weather, the senatorial wrangle and the fashions to talk about, and a semi-scientific air pervades every social circle." The *Times* adds: "Later teachings have dissipated all fear of the earth being knocked to pieces in such an encounter, and convinced scholars that little or no effect would be observable. The general opinion is that the result of such a collision would much more probably be a 'knock-down blow' to the comet than a serious injury to old Mother Earth." Another facetious journal is the paper so named at Albany, which thinks "there seems to be no prospect of a deadlock among the astronomers over the great comet which suddenly irradiates the northern sky." The New York *World* admits its ignorance of the subject and says: "In short, we as yet know little more about it than that it exists, which is enough, however, to fill the superstitious, who take the unknown as the most solid basis of the dangerous and portentous, with a sudden shuddering awe of the approach of the *Dies Ira* which has been drawing nearer, of course, ever since the creation's dawn, and which may now be at hand—as also it may not be. And it is possible also that poor old Mother Earth, who has been white hot, battered by storms of metal, parched by the sun, frozen over with ice and pelted by meteors from time immemorial, may at last receive her *coup de grace* from a comet. But though this is possible it is highly improbable, and until it is at least ascertained whether the

new fiery visitor is approaching the earth or not, good people may be permitted to possess their souls in patience."

The Boston *Traveller* thinks the reports upon the comet made by men of science show greater disagreement than exists among the less learned observers, who simply judge by what they see. The Providence *Journal*, which is the astronomical authority for other papers, says,—“Mathematicians are, perhaps, doing the most valuable work of all—for it is they who, with their grand array of figures, will map out its path, and find out if this is its first appearance. For this we must wait before anything can be known with certainty concerning its future course.” The Boston *Advertiser* goes into rhapsodies and exclaims:—“Suddenly and without a moment's warning mankind beholds a comet. And for once the modest layman is almost as wise as is the astronomer. Nor would it be easy to determine which is more worthy of attention,—the peculiar emotion enkindled by the heavenly vision in almost every breast, or the limited information which the greatest of all natural sciences has to offer as to the nature and the movements of the comets;” as to the danger resulting from the comet's striking the earth, the *Advertiser* thinks that “to come in contact with a lady's train is far more dangerous,” and it calls the comet “a silent, beautiful, and welcome visitor.” The N. Y. *Tribune* is satirical and says: “If this were a comet that had any regard for the proprieties, or was governed by any known rules, it would not have burst upon our horizon at a time when Mr. Conkling was occupying it.”

In the same vein the Hartford *Post* jocularly remarks: “Of course the surprise of a comet and of senatorial resignations has no significance among the striking coincidences of life, however much Senator Platt of New York may be compared to the tail of a kite; but we do not quite understand why it is that Professor Boss of Albany should step in now, as the astronomical representative of the Dudley Observatory, and join his name to comet speculations.”

The N. Y. *Telegram*'s comment is that “the comet as a topic of conversation breaks down the ordinary barriers of distrust, reserve or prudence, between all classes of our metropolitan inhabitants. People in all public places talk without hesitation to such as happen to be next them whenever the comet, either as an object of sight or as a topic of reflection, presents itself. The time is past when these interesting phenomena were popularly believed to be wandering hells, peopled with the souls of the lost, though we have no doubt that even now there are creatures, calling themselves civilized human beings, who regard them as evil portents, foreboding war, famine, pestilence and death.” To the N. Y. *Herald* it appears that “the appearance of comets in our skies after traversing the outmost limits of the solar system makes us feel that we have had at least some report, by an actual explorer, from the frontiers of that system beyond the Neptunian orbit. While science has stripped them of the terror they formerly had, by showing the tenuity of their masses, its revelations have only enhanced the awe-inspiring mystery which surrounds their nature and their movements. “It is a lucky comet,” says the Philadelphia *Inquirer*, “therefore, which strays into the visible heavens at this time; all the more lucky if, like our present visitor, it suddenly pops out of unknown space, unexpected, unannounced, and surrounded with a delightful mystery as to its origin, destiny and course.” “Somesay,” the Cincinnati *Gazette* remarks, “that comets are all gas, and that if one should strike the earth it would only envelope it with a flame which would burn us all up. Others say that it has solid substance enough to knock the earth to flinders, besides the finish by consuming flames. The difference will not be material to those who experience it.” “We are gradually reaching the conclusion,” the Philadelphia *Bulletin* thinks, “that the regular astronomers are totally untrustworthy when they get upon the subject of comets. Of course, now that they have been driven into a corner, they pretend that the matter is unimportant.”

The gist of the Chicago *Inter-Ocean*'s utterance is that of late years there has been a theory advanced that comets have a connection with the meteor systems. The theory that comets have any influence on meteorological conditions on the earth, or any disturbing influence as planets, has now few advocates.

“The comet comes along in the nick of time to puzzle the astronomers and entertain the public,” according to the Philadelphia *News*. “It is not a second-rate affair, this comet, but one of the most brilliant that ever appeared. Fortunately it has a thin tail, and is moving toward the North Pole. Hence, if it whisks its tail about, it will not be so dangerous.” In the South few papers have dared, apparently, to speak ill or well of the mysterious stranger, but the Memphis *Avalanche* says: “A nice calculation of its orbit has been made, and it can confidently be predicted that this new comet will strike the earth in the first week in September, at a point in the District of Columbia. Nobody will be hurt, however, except the Star Route chevaliers.”

The appearance of a “fiery comet” says the Boston *Herald*, over the whole country, affords opportunity for a pleasing relief from the discussions over the Albany dead-lock and the New Testament revision. The Philadelphia *Bulletin* sums up the matter by saying “We shall all of us be in a condition of uneasiness until we know whether this really is the comet of 1807, and whether it is 29,000,000 or 45,000,000 miles from the earth.”

TYPES OF WASHINGTON CHARACTER: III.

THE COLONELS, MAJORS AND JUDGES.

THERE is one class of men to be found at Washington who are seen nowhere else. They grow upon one by constant observation of them. At first they appear very like the ordinary run of semi-genteel bar-room loafers. The visitor who notices them at all is merely amazed that so small a city as Washington can produce so many of them. He may be further surprised by the fact that they appear to be on such intimate terms with men in high position. We recollect sitting in a restaurant one day when three of these worthies entered. It was only lunch-time, but the three had evidently had excellent luck that morning, in the way of being treated. They were all more or less thick of speech, and were even fuller than usual of dignity and whiskey. It was just after the Presidential election, and they were all Southern Democrats. They had abandoned hope for a time, only to think of a scheme whereby they might avoid the discomfort of remaining out in the cold of a life unprotected and uncared for by a generous government for another four years. "Yes, sah; yes, sah," said the leader in political thought, "I told a Senatorial fren' o' mine, sah, a Sen'torial fren' las' night, that the South ought to cast its vote for Gyahfield, sah; solidly for Gyahfield. Accordin' to Mr. Story's commentaries, sah, the electors of each state in the Union can cast their votes, sah, for anybody they choose. It would not be a breach of trust, sah, and I favor the giving of the vote of the South, sah, to Gyahfield." This is a sample of the kind of conversation of which visitors at the hotels of Washington hear scraps, almost every hour and minute of the day. Then one comes to wonder what these queer people are who never have any business to attend to, who seem to have such a wide acquaintance with public men; who are always ready to offer advice on grave questions of state; whose talk is always on a plane higher than that of the average congressman, who is generally confined to conversation about the distribution of spoils in his district.

These men are what are familiarly known as "the Colonels, the Majors and the Judges." This is Washington slang. In any other place they would be termed bummers. But here they are recognized as possessing too much character to be put into the general classification. The Washington loafer is more than a mere loafer. The bar-room loungers of other cities would not be congenial to him, and, *vice-versa*, he would not be congenial to them. He makes an atmosphere of his own into which the others could not enter, and in which they certainly could not live. These men, as a rule, are disappointed office-seekers. They have either come for places that they cannot get, or they have been turned out of places that have been wanted for more active and more useful politicians. They are the victims of the government, as much so as though they had an actual connection with the administration of affairs, and were really receiving a monthly stipend from the monstrous tyrant that grinds out not only the lives of those who work for it, but ruins hundreds who are eaten up with an ambition to take the places of the pale-faced, frightened men who earn their daily bread in constant fear of being turned out on a cold and forbidding world. These men go to Washington and they cannot leave. Year after year the ranks of the "Colonels, Majors and Judges" are recruited from the thriftless men of the world. Imagine the government clerk turned out of place and made a wanderer. He would not have ambition enough to turn tramp; he has not the physical strength to dig for his living; he has not the energy or perseverance to find another place which his talent would permit him to fill. If he had no home to go to, no relations or connections to hang on for support, he might, if congenial, become one of the bar-room loungers of the Capital. He could be nothing else.

There are not many Northern men among these people. The Northern politician does not hang about Washington after he has become assured that he is to have no place. He is what is vulgarly known as a "Striker," and if he cannot ply his trade at Washington he can at some State capital, or in his own city or town. The Northern politician is not without other resources. If he cannot get what the government calls work, he can make the political patrons to whom he renders his peculiar services find him in the needed money. There is no sentimentality about the Northern political "striker." He works for pay, and he generally succeeds in making more or less of it. If there is anything in the world he despises, it is Reform and Statesmanship. He probably has as hearty a contempt for those who consider politics the science of government as for those who do not chew tobacco. The two stand on about the same level in his practical mind. Once in a while a Northern man is found among the ranks of the "Colonels, Majors and Judges." He is a fallen member of the class which one finds in the New England lyceum or debating society—the half-educated men who get together to discuss affairs of State, and "perfect" themselves in public speaking—the manner and the glibness of speech being of infinitely more importance than the matter, for they will inevitably hold that preparation for a debate ought never to be undertaken, the object being to speak off-hand, and to think on one's legs, without having anything to think about. They are the people who become socialists and greenbackers whenever the oppor-

tunity offers, and they are always willing to look after the affairs of the world, from the spiritual charge of the Pope of Rome to the temporal jurisdiction of the alderman of the ward. It is true that they can never take care of their own affairs, but if they are to be believed, no one is able to take care of the finances of the nation, and so while the landlord is pressing them for unpaid rent, and their families are eating the dry crust of poverty, they will explain by the hour to open-mouthed audiences the crudities of Secretaries of the Treasury, the false financial principles that govern the bankers of the country, and the follies of the tariff.

The true representative of the "Colonels, Majors and Judges," however, is a Southerner, and a Southerner is the leader of the crowd that infests the public places of Washington. He is a man, generally, of fair education, the kind of education given Southerners before the war. He knows something of the classics, a good deal of sentimental poetry, is a firm believer in chivalry and physical courage, and above all is a great debater on constitutional and political questions. Politics is not, with him, as it is with the Northern politician, something whereby men easily earn their bread and butter. He is growing to be more like this Northern prototype, it is true, but the old flavor of thriftlessness and honesty hangs about him yet. The average Southern public man is not a bribe-taker, and this bar-room loafer is like all other public men in this respect, until he becomes utterly degraded. He is in politics to be a statesman. His Congressman does not go to Washington to look after the interests of the district; he goes there to add something to the sum of the world's oratory. His people want him to be a statesman, so that when they gather at the cross-roads store they can find some intellectual pleasure in discussing him and the measures about which he has made the halls of Congress ring with his eloquence—not the business-like eloquence with which the North is familiar—but the quaint, old-fashioned, high-sounding eloquence of a quarter of a century ago. The Colonel, or Major, or Judge, whichever title he may affect, is probably the chief touter for votes for the Congressman, and the chief debater at the village store. He goes to Washington to get an office. He is not so much in pursuit of the money paid him as salary, as of the glory of filling a public station. He will tell you: "It is the duty, sah, of every good citizen of the Republic to serve his fellow-citizens whenever they demand that he shall leave the ease and comfort of private life, sah, and take upon himself the burdens of State." Having laid down this maxim as the rule of his life, he begs and pleads for a clerkship, and gets all his friends to help him beg and plead. One motive for this office-seeking propensity of his, is an honest desire on his part to live in the world of politics, to know the notable men of the country, and to be in constant communication with them. It is worth more to him than a princely income to be able to talk to strangers of his Senatorial friends who honor him, and do themselves a service, by giving him their confidence and accepting his advice. He does not become one of the real "Colonels, Majors and Judges," of Washington, however, until he has either failed to get an office or has lost one. Then he drifts to the hotel lobbies and bar-rooms, where he can find genial companions. He does not go back home. That has become too dull for him. The government, the allurements of politics, are too strong for him. He cannot escape them. He goes on living where he can see the glamour of the country's greatness, and he becomes inevitably a burned-out soul, a drunkard, and a pitiable object to all who know him and the story of his downfall.

There is a group thoroughly well known to all who are familiar with Washington. The man who is the recognized leader is a Southerner, once a physician, and known as "Doctor." He is a small, thin-visaged man, walking with his head bent forward, as if oppressed with the affairs of State. He is a voluble talker, a man of fair information, born, he thinks, to play the game of politics, one who ought to have made a figure in the world. He serves now as a warning against the evils of surrendering one's life up to the pursuit of politics. He will tell you how his advice has beaten or elected Congressmen, unseated Senators and Cabinet officers, or even compassed the selection or rejection of aspirants for Presidential nominations. He probably believes half he tells. Once he told his stories for the sake of glorifying himself; now he tells them mainly to charm a victim into treating him to whiskey; for, like all his kind, he has become the victim of intemperance. He went to Washington some years ago, when the Democrats first came into possession of the House of Representatives. He came to take an office in order that he might be near at hand to help his party wisely wear their regained honors. He secured his prize, but the opposition newspapers discovered some startling evidence of his too exuberant joy over the most terrible crime of the rebellion, and he was obliged to surrender his place before he was warm in it. So he drifted out into the ranks of those who are disappointed place-seekers. He did not go home, for he was dazzled and blinded by the fierce glare of public life. The wings of the poor moth were burned, the more effectually as he became the oracle of his little knot.

Another member of the group is an ex-Government-employé. He lives on the little law practice he can pick up, and goes by the title of

"Judge." He had once a promising future. If he had remained in his Western home, he would have made a respectable income and a worthy name in his profession. He was tempted to go to Washington to work for the public, and he cannot escape from the fascinations of the place. He is there, and he must stay there, no matter if, in consequence, the future be hopeless for him. He once had some literary taste, and even now, in his besotted middle age, he may be occasionally found apart from his otherwise constant companions, devouring the contents of periodicals which are lent him by the good-natured news-vendors who know him. He is not proud of his drunkenness, as many of the others are—esteeming sottishness a sign of genius—for he sometimes receives a temperance lecture kindly and makes a short struggle for reform.

The crowd of "Colonels, Majors, and Judges" are drunkards. Drunkenness is the inevitable end of idleness in Washington. These disappointed politicians dream that they are living lives of elegant leisure, while they are sitting around hotels and restaurants, waiting to be treated, and they accept their gratuities in liquor not with the cringing gratitude of the beggar of other places, but with the grace of a courtly gentleman accepting a friend's hospitality. They are pre-eminently conversationalists. They delight to call themselves *raconteurs*. That ambitious word they intend to designate a man who tells questionable stories, and who possesses a large assortment of real and imaginary anecdotes about public men. Nevertheless, it cannot be denied that they hang around for opportunities to be invited to drink. If one studies them closely one will discover that they keep up the sham of statesmanship, even among themselves. They are dignified and polite to one another. They never address each other except by their titles, and they invariably discuss grave questions of politics. It is very rarely indeed that they take so low a tone in their political talk as do the party "organs," and the Machine Congressmen. They rarely deal with anything less than a constitutional question. They probably think that they impose upon each other, as if they did not all know that each is a thirsty soul and that his waking hours are devoted to finding means to satisfy his appetite without expense. Yet there are sometimes terrible revelations of the truth. Once the regular "crowd" had found a rich man who had gone to Washington to see the city, and they had fastened to him as they always do. The people who go to see the sights, and are not disinclined to a little dissipation, are always honored by the acquaintance of the "Colonels, Majors, and Judges." The latter always impress upon chance acquaintances the fact that they are honored by introduction to men who are themselves among the leading thinkers of the country, the powers behind the throne, and who are therefore necessarily in constant communication with the public men of the country. This rich man followed the course of many who had preceded him. He felt honored, delighted and appreciated. The only return he could make for this introduction to the master minds of the country, who set him right on the leading political questions of the day, and disabused his mind of many fancies about the statesmen of the country, was to spend his money for them. Of course this was liberal in him, for there are very few rich men of this kind who do not think that money is a dear return for anything, but he was willing to pay for a stock of information which he could retail at home, thereby exciting the admiration and envy of the local magnates. He kept up his payment for several days, and he and all the "Colonels, Majors, and Judges," were almost constantly soaked with whiskey and politics. One day as he came in he pointed to the bar-room, and all of the party that was awake followed him; but some slept on the lounges in the corridor and were not conscious of the visitation. A faithful friend, however, would not see them neglected, and, stealing out of the bar-room while those who remained were engaged in conversation, he hastily darted over to the sleepers, woke them up, and pointed significantly to the door. There were no words necessary. The late sleepers understood at once, and wandered in to partake of their share of their friend's hospitality.

They have no shame about this. They are honest in thinking they are giving an equivalent for what they get. They are the patrons, and he who is feeding them with liquor, they think, must be glad of his opportunity. They never descend to familiarity with him, and it is probably the reason they maintain the comic seriousness of their discussions with one another that they may be always in condition to meet and entertain strangers who go to Washington to meet the foremost men of the Republic.

These men are but a type of those whom the government destroys. They are as much the victims of the government as the men who obtain employment. They are killed in all their manhood by the attractions of the capital. All their usefulness in life, all that might make them good citizens and cultivated men is stamped out by the monster that is responsible for the death of so much that might be of service to the world. So long as the alluring hope is held out that the political success of the "outs" will turn out of office all who are in, and replace them with their political opponents, so long will Washington have its "Colonels, Majors and Judges" who can be availed of as terrible examples, both by the temperance lecturer and the Civil Service Reformer.

THE LAW OF THE STOCK EXCHANGE.

THE commercial growth of the United States is strongly exemplified in the rapid increase of Exchanges in the many centres of trade, a few of the latter old, but the most of recent date. For those who cherish the belief that a stock exchange is only a great "gambling concern," which is all the more worse than a policy shop because it is more respectable, there will be little comfort in the thought that these institutions are on the increase. Nevertheless, the needs of trade demand their existence, and its growth causes their multiplying. It is not strange that out of the magnitude of transactions occurring at these exchanges many questions should arise which the courts alone could properly determine. And during the past few years the records of litigation have been frequently burdened with cases involving the legal status, the duties and liabilities of the Exchanges, and their members. Despite the objections of moralists, it is now well settled that Exchange transactions are strictly legal. This is frequently alleged to be a frightful inconsistency in the law, which makes lotteries a penal offence, and gambling a crime, but, without discussing either the morality or the impartiality of the law, the simple fact is asserted. In the cases involving the legality of exchange contracts, and in which the question of morality has been raised, the party taking the moral side usually has been the one who was simply trying to get out of a bad bargain. If the courts have invariably decided against the "moral" litigation, they may be spared any reflection upon their virtue, for the reason that both parties being rogues—from the moralist's standpoint—the decisions always resulted in punishing at least one of them.

Upon the question of legality there have been a number of recent decisions. A case was decided only a short time ago, in the Pennsylvania Supreme Court, which involved the question whether the sale of stock "short" was a legal contract or an illegal wager. In this case the decision was against the legality of the particular transaction. The plaintiff, a stock broker, received an order from the defendant to sell about 50 shares of stock. Owing to the death of the latter, there was no evidence showing how the transaction was carried out, but the broker had charged the defendant with the difference between 49 and 52 $\frac{3}{4}$ in the price per share. In the lower Court a decision and verdict were rendered in favor of the broker, the Court holding that a contract to sell stock, with intent to deliver, whether the seller had any stock at the time or not, was legal. The Supreme Court, however, held that as the evidence failed to show that any one but the broker and the seller was interested in the transaction, it was simply a wager between those two parties, and therefore void as a contract. A case involving a similar question of law, but with a different result, was decided about a year ago by the Supreme Court of Michigan. The suit arose out of an agreement between a firm of dealers in produce and commission merchants in Detroit, for the purchase by the latter, on account of the former, of a large amount of corn for future delivery. The merchants defended a suit on the contract, on the ground that the agreement contemplated no actual sale or delivery of corn, but was simply a wager. The brokers maintained that it was intended that the actual title to the corn should pass. The Court held that a contract for future delivery was legal, and that, although one of the parties may have intended it only as a wager, so long as the other did not share in the intent, it was a valid and binding contract. The Court laid down the rule, however, that where two parties entered into such an agreement with the mutual understanding that no actual sale should occur, the transaction would be simply a wager as to future prices, and would, therefore, be illegal.

In all the cases decided by the Courts, the members of the Exchange are held to their legal duties, and any customs which they may establish, in conflict with the law, are not binding, in general, upon the person dealing in ignorance of them. In a case which came before the Courts in New York city, last January, it appeared that a firm of produce dealers deposited with their brokers, members of the Produce Exchange, about \$450,000, to be used in speculations in wheat, corn and lard. A few months afterwards the merchants were informed that the entire sum of money had been lost, and that they were indebted to the brokers in the further sum of \$10,000. An account of the transactions was demanded from the brokers, and, failing to obtain one, a suit was brought. The brokers, in their defence, said that, in accordance with the custom of the Exchange, the moneys of the plaintiffs were placed in a common fund, and that no separate account was kept of the transactions in which the money had been lost. The Court, however, held that the brokers must either show how the money was disposed of, or reimburse the plaintiffs, and that no custom of the Produce Exchange could justify such a strange method of doing business, as had been pursued by the defendants. In a case occurring in Pennsylvania, a firm of brokers in Philadelphia was employed to sell some railroad stock. They sent the stock to their New York correspondents, to be sold in that city. After the stock had been sold, but before the money was remitted to the Philadelphia brokers, the latter failed, owing the New York brokers on other accounts. The latter refused to pay over the proceeds of the sale to the original owner of the stock, on the plea that the custom among

brokers was to treat all transactions occurring between them as one account, and to remit or draw only for the general balance. The Court held that such a custom could not hold against persons ignorant of it, and that the money held by the New York brokers was only held in trust for the owner of the stock which had been sold. A number of cases in New York and other States have followed the rule that a secret custom of Exchanges can not be allowed to operate against persons not connected with the Exchanges, and ignorant of their methods. In England the legality of these customs has been more fully recognized than it has been, or probably will ever be, in this country. A very recent decision in New York City will probably modify the general opinion regarding the liability of the seat of an Exchange member for his debts. The General Term of the Court of Common Pleas has decided—with a dissenting opinion by one of the three Judges—that under an execution a member's seat in the Stock Exchange may be seized and sold to satisfy a judgment against the member. The dissenting opinion, and also the decision of the special term, which was reversed, was to the effect that such a seat was a mere personal privilege, and in no sense property. A majority of the Court, however, holds differently, and unless the decision is reversed upon appeal, that rule will be recognized as the prevailing law. As the Exchanges reserve the right, which has been judicially determined to be legal, to reject at the pleasure of the members any person seeking membership, who has obtained a seat by purchase, it may be a question what profit a creditor will find in selling his debtor's seat in an Exchange. But of course this question did not enter into the discussion over the right of the creditor to sell, nor does it in any way affect that right.

LITERATURE.

FRANCE AND THE FRENCH.

THOUGH France can no longer lay claim to the political primacy of Europe, there is no country whose recent history and present condition are more interesting and better worth study. And of all the books dealing with the France of to-day, there is none so just, so comprehensive and so intelligent as that which has just been laid before American readers, (France and the French in the Second Half of the Nineteenth Century—by Karl Hillebrand,) and which fully merits the laudatory censures summed up in the phrase, "It is too German for French readers, and too French for German readers." For ancient France, the author assures us, he has a sincere admiration, and concerning modern France he speaks with sincerity, if he does not always admire. This sincerity extends to his appreciations of his own countrymen, whose former vice of national arrogance he rebukes justly, while he bids them remember, when talking complacently of the intellectual languor, political weakness and moral laxity of their Gallic neighbors, that it is not so long since Germany herself has witnessed things beside which the much talked of "corruption of the Second Empire" was hardly worth mentioning. Admitting the ignorance of the French concerning foreign countries, and their superficiality when compelled to study them, he questions whether things are really different in Germany, and recalls with regret the familiar knowledge which the German authors of two generations back possessed of the literature and affairs of France and England. In short, one has but to glance at a very few pages of the author's preface and introduction to acquire the conviction that he is a man whose eye is keen to discern the truth—whose tongue is fearless in speaking it.

The introductory analysis of the French character is alike interesting and valuable. On glancing at French history, he is most struck with the number of contradictions met in it, contradictions found in the national character. "French public life," he says, "shows a rapid alternation of passionate interest in politics and hopeless indifference, of enthusiasm and skepticism, of a spirit of blind routine and a desire of innovation, of impulsive self-sacrifice and selfish individualism, of longing for freedom and a contented acceptance of absolute rule. Superstition and skepticism, immorality and domestic affection, a love of rhetoric and the soberest literary taste, are found in contact yet not in conflict, in the religious, moral and intellectual life of the French. Even more striking is the contrast between their public and private life. Frivolous, extravagant and impulsive where only the State is concerned, they are provident, economical and always cautious in their private affairs. The explanation, the author thinks, is to be found for the most part in the sharp contrast between the people's character and their mode of thought. The principal characteristic of the French mind is rationalism—the habit of judging with the understanding alone, which, while it found its most definite expression in the eighteenth century and obtained complete supremacy during the Revolution and the Empire, did not until our own day exhibit unmistakably the influence it exercises on public and private life. It is this rationalistic spirit he sets himself to trace in its workings, and he very reasonably makes the middle class the subjects of his study, rejecting alike the masses in which the characteristics of national civilization are not fully developed, and the richest and highest classes in which the distinctive traits have faded away.

There is not, it may safely be said, one section, or even one page of the volume in which something worth commendation or challenging comment will not be found. While marriage is arranged on principles of expediency, the caution is added that foreigners are wont to judge of these matters with too little discrimination, and we are informed that most French marriages turn out happily, infidelity is very rare, and family life is generally characterized by a warm affection falling little short of love. In no

country is honesty more common—that is, if the State be not the second party to the transaction, and the relation between masters and servants is in most respects excellent. Love of order is one of the most prominent traits, and with proverbial moderation there is no grudging as to quality. If not extravagant, neither is the Frenchman open-handed, and while always anxious to please and ready to be of service, nothing can induce him to open his purse. In no country is there more hard work done, but rarely is work continued when it is no longer absolutely necessary. With an absence of anything like religious feeling—where religion appears in its most fanatical character, says our author acutely, it is a form of party passion rather than a deep personal faith or a sensuous belief—the average Frenchman "practices" religion—attends to its observances as a matter of propriety and utility. Nature and education have made of him the most perfect member of society known to history. His sociability is proverbial. Though his flattery is never awkward or in bad taste, his compliments are paid to be returned, and French society is "a huge vanity insurance company," this craving to satisfy vanity showing itself in civil institutions as well as in social intercourse. This amiable vanity, harmless and destitute of anything like concealment or hypocrisy, is closely connected with another "social virtue"—the so-called "*respect humain*." The Gallic sensitiveness to ridicule is proverbial—incredible, and the care to avoid making one's self conspicuous produces an intellectual monotony curious in so vivacious a nation, and renders a worthy political life an impossibility. The laws of honor, the true police of French society, are as much respected as the laws of the State are despised—an outcome again, of vanity. While physical courage is possessed, to be thoroughly brave the Frenchman needs spectators, when there is no deed of heroism of which he is not capable. Even his far-famed chivalry needs this stimulus—he is ever ready to aid the feeble or to make little sacrifices, but he prefers to do it in public, a characteristic intimately connected with indifference to truth—want of respect for the truth as such. Of the gallantry and innocent coquetry which so contribute to the charm of French society, Dr. Hillebrand remarks that with the spread of Anglo-mania among the higher classes, and the introduction of a certain pedantry and prudishness among the bourgeoisie, the old innocent child-likeness, the *bonhomie* of old France are vanishing. "It seems," he says, "as if the French were becoming incapable of the part which is the happy mean between the two extremes, and which they once filled with such grace and ease. Even the vivacious, talkative Frenchman seems to be dying out. Once it was the custom for fellow-travellers, and for those who sat together in the theatres to enter into conversation without any feeling of restraint; not, indeed, as in Germany, with a view to obtaining interesting biographical information, but in order to pass the time by talking about matters of general interest, or of no special interest at all. Now a man thinks he is forfeiting his dignity if he does not sit in his place in dumb silence, after the manner of Englishmen. The salons are, however, still tolerably free from this drawback, although here, too, it is becoming more and more the fashion to be stiff and reserved."

The influence of woman upon French society has been in no way impaired by the presence of the bourgeoisie on the scene since 1789. "The French woman," we read in an appreciative and eminently just paragraph, "still rules supreme in the salon, in the bureau of the minister, in the family, and even in the house of business, as erst she ruled at court. She has not suffered, as the men have, from the habit of looking at things as mere abstractions, but has preserved intact her sureness of instinct, her intuitive power and her firmness of character, because, unconsciously obeying her true nature, she has not sacrificed them to the abstract formulas of the understanding or "principles," as they are pompously styled. In point of fact, Frenchwomen deserve to rule, for they are morally and intellectually far superior to the men. They are formed by nature to excel in what are specially national virtues—love of order, thrift and domestic affection. Cool, calculating, and practical, they are perhaps less easily troubled by conscientious scruples than the men, have a quicker and surer eye for the family interest, and follow it up with more energy. They are unsurpassed in their talent for housekeeping, for they manage the household with a firm and careful hand—without constantly talking about it, like German ladies. Many of them actually superintend their husbands' business, which may explain the want of enterprise in French commerce. A Frenchwoman is never likely to lack boldness and perseverance in pushing her way. She has plenty of natural common sense, and has not muddled it with "principles." She is the cleverest of mortals in turning to account any natural advantages, however slight. She is in the highest degree ambitious; passionate, though outwardly calm and self-controlled; never wanting in tact, elegant in her dress, adorned with a natural grace which it is the special aim of her education to foster; above all endowed with character and determination. Possessed of such qualities, she guides her husband, or brother, or son; she wills him forward, makes the way smooth for him, undertakes any necessary business which may be distasteful to him—in short, she first wins him his position in life, and then helps him to assert it."

It will thus be seen that Dr. Hillebrand is as a student conscientious and appreciative—that he does not regard the Frenchman as a mischievous and ridiculous compound of the monkey and the tiger, and that he is far from joining in the popular cry against the narrow and sordid character of the bourgeoisie, which every French author of the last half century has deemed it his duty to raise and which has been loudest on the lips of those sprung of that bourgeoisie. Care, candor and cheerfulness mark all his inquiries and statements, and his German system and thoroughness are far removed from dullness or tediousness. A more attractive or a more truthful volume it would be difficult to find, and the reader will rise from its perusal satisfied that after all that is said of the degradation and decay of French society, there is still "a good deal of human nature in humanity," and good ground for courage and hope, and that different as are the gifts and dispositions of the two races, in the French as in the Anglo-Saxon

or Teuton, there are capacities and qualities eminently adapted to the work of the age, and reflecting honor upon their common humanity. (New York: Scribner & Welford. pp. 261.)

ENGLAND WITHOUT AND WITHIN.—Mr. White is like Mr. Edward A. Freeman in the respect that, despite his frequent displays of "bumptiousness," he is always readable, and, despite his occasional slips, always gives his reader something new and worth listening to. In the present volume, (England Without and Within—By Richard Grant White,) he is fortunate in his subject, for England and English people, have always been attractive subjects to American readers, and never more attractive than at this time. Our English cousins, too, have been writing so many books about the United States that it is an agreeable change to come upon a volume in which their life, characteristics, and surroundings are discussed so generally and described so graphically. Several of the papers included in the volume will be found familiar by readers of the *Atlantic Monthly*, but there is enough new matter to make the book welcome to them without taking into consideration the convenience of having all these essays presented in compact form. It is not—does not pretend to be, as exhaustive a work as Dr. Hillebrand's on "France and the French," and, outside of Mr. White's personal experiences, there is not much that is startlingly novel to the reader of intelligence, but, nevertheless, even this reader will have to admit that the author writes pleasantly and naturally, and makes triteness itself attractive. There are some points on which we should be inclined to take issue with Mr. White. For instance, on page 300, after attributing a quotation to Dugdale, he gives this in a foot-note: "Or perhaps Camden. It is many years since I read the passage, and I have not the book now, nor time to look it up. I am quite sure as to the passage, and it makes little difference whether the authority is Camden or Dugdale." True; but why give the note at all? It may have been excusable when the article was written for the magazine, but it is, at least, superfluous when months afterward it is deliberately incorporated into the book. A few pages further on when speaking of Tittlebat Titmouse, we find the atrocious plural "other Titnices," which reminds us of the American dramatist who, a few months ago, desirous of being superlatively correct, translated "Les Danicheff" "The Danicheff" and not "The Danicheffs." Nor is Mr. White always accurate in this same chapter on the peerage: for instance, the son of a duke, a marquess or an earl does not always bear the second title of his father; there is at least one case where knighthood is hereditary; we are at a loss to understand what heralds have to do with matters of precedence, and who, or what is "the Mac Allum More"?

But a truce to picking at petty things like these, and let us permit Mr. White to put on record his experiences and opinions. He was disappointed in the London restaurants, especially as his expectations had been raised on reflecting that eating and drinking was such serious business in England. He found eating-houses in great number and variety, at some of which the way-faring man might fare sumptuously, and at many of which excellent cold beef and hot tender chops might be had, with good beer and even good wine, but not one that would compare favorably with the high class restaurants of our own cities. There is a delightful discussion of the "cultus of the joint," at once god and sacrifice, and a sound criticism upon British beef and mutton, the latter being highly eulogized, while the former is declared no better than our own, and in the item of steaks decidedly inferior. In the damp climate of his ancestors he ate mightily, like the people around him, and thrived like them. The Cock, hard by roaring Temple Bar, furnished him with beef and beer supremely good, though the surroundings made his luncheon rather a doleful and depressing performance—(by the way, why does Mr. White say that old Temple Bar was "of about the same age" as the British Constitution, when it only dated from Charles I.?)—and he was disillusioned as to English breakfasts and "English basement houses." American tradition as to the latter style of building is woefully at variance with the truth; he found coffee more in favor than tea, very rarely saw toast, and was only offered eggs once—and then there were none, though it was at a country house where on a remark at the table that the lawn needed trimming, three gardeners appeared as if by enchantment and set about the task. The free use, not only of wine and beer, but even of spirits, by all classes and by both sexes, among people of the highest respectability and the most decorous life, was the very first of English habits which attracted his attention. Only at one table did he see pure water drunk, though he finds some excuse in the traditional custom of the country, the lack of good water, and the climate, making stimulants more welcome if not more necessary, and increasing the ability to withstand them. He, however, notes the fact known to statisticians, if not recognized by lecturers on temperance, that the consumption of liquor and the drunkenness are gradually diminishing in England, not positively, but in proportion to the population.

The manners of English folk, Mr. White found, in most respects, pleasing and admirable, though the English manner lacks both warmth and grace, and he records the favorable verdict after a pretty wide experience with all classes and under all circumstances, having, as befits an observer, his eyes wide open. Though he describes aptly the "absence of pleasing outward demonstration, the reserve so absolute and yet so unconscious (unconscious, perhaps, through long habit and continued practice,) that it is very like indifference," he admits exceptions so numerous that they almost invalidate the rule. "English people impress you first of all by a sense of the genuineness of their actions and of their speech. Warm or cold they may be, gracious or ungracious, arrogant or considerate, but you see that they are sincere. * * * The manner of Englishmen to women is a happy mean between indifference and adulation, between hard mastery and abject submission. There is neither the effusiveness of the Frenchman nor the sad and voiceless slavery of the American; little bowing and flourishing, and not much flattery. But with a silent assertion of masculine mastery and no readiness to yield everything to a woman's caprice or convenience, merely because she is a woman, there is an exhaustless fund of tenderness and a never dying flame of

chivalry among these wife-beating men." The good behavior of the English people from the lowest to the highest impressed him; he did not find every one hungering and thirsting for "tips," and he pays a hearty tribute to the "quiet, good-natured ways, unpretending civility and unobtrusive readiness" of the London police. As to the much-disputed question of the comparative convenience of the English and American systems of railway travelling, he gives his voice, without hesitation or qualification, in favor of the former, and the chapter in which he gives his experiences is one of the most interesting in the book.

To our fancy, however, and probably to that of the majority of his readers, Mr. White is nowhere so appreciative and happy as when he is describing our fair English sisters. His occasional portraits, and notably those of the girls and young women, are equally graphic and graceful, and his tenth chapter is an admirable one, and—like many others—will be found especially interesting if read in connection with M. Taine's well known book. But he is loyal to the American woman, who, it must be admitted, has improved wonderfully in the last generation, and promises in the next to be something still more admirable. "Beauty," says Mr. White, "is very much commoner among women of the English race than among those of any other with which I am acquainted, and among that race it is commoner in America than in England. I saw more beauty of face and figure at the first two receptions which I attended after my return, than I had found among the hundreds of thousands of women whom I had seen in England. The types are the same in both countries, but they seem to come near to perfection oftener here than there. Beauty of feature, however, although rarer, is sometimes found more clearly defined in England. The mouth, in particular, when it is beautiful, is more statuesque; the curves are more decided; at the junction of the red of the lips with the white, there is a delicately raised outline which marks the form of the feature in a very noble way. This may also be said of the nostril. It gives a chiselled effect to those features, which is not so often found in America, but the nose itself, the brow, and the set and carriage of the head are generally finer among Americans. In both countries, however, the head is apt to be too large for perfect proportion. Plump arms are not uncommon, but really fine arms are rare, and fine wrists are still rarer. It is often said, even in England, that the feet of American women are more beautiful than those of English women; this I am inclined to doubt. The feet may be smaller here, and they generally look smaller, because English women wear larger and heavier shoes, but mere smallness is not beauty." He did not find the complexion of the women of England exceptionally beautiful, being often fresh, oftener ruddy, and still oftener coarse, and pale, "allow women are as common there as here. In general they are the worst dressed human creatures on the footstool; but our author expresses his "surprised dissent" from the commonly received dictum of the superiority of the American women in intelligence and conversation. The pages devoted to this subject (218, 221), will repay perusal.

Mr. White's book, however, to be properly appreciated, needs to be read, and we shall not spoil the reader's pleasure by giving him disconnected glimpses of its contents, but merely dismiss it by saying that it is one of the pleasantest volumes of the season, and not by any means the least profitable, and recording our belief that it will find a large and interested circle of readers on the other side of the Atlantic as well as here. (Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Co. 1881. Pp. 601.)

METEORITES AND THEIR ORGANISMS.—The recent very important discovery of Dr. Hahn, if it indeed be a discovery, of fossil animal forms on meteorites, is one which is destined to be of great import, alike to astronomy and the question of the origin of life on the earth. From a stone which fell from the air he has prepared transparent sections, which when examined with a microscope, give, in his estimation, indubitable evidence of their organic origin. He has prepared also thirty-two photographic plates giving the appearance of the organisms, and thus he gives to the scientific world the opportunity to judge for itself as to the validity of his conclusions.

The fossil remains detected are those of the lowest forms of animal life, sponges, algae and corals, and resemble the terrestrial organisms of a similar grade.

This last fact seems to be one of peculiar interest and importance. Great doubts hang over the question of the origin of meteors: one fact only seems to be clear, that they are not of terrestrial origin. Whether they have been ejected in past times from some volcanoes on the moon, and have since been revolving hither and thither, swayed by the varying attractions of earth, moon and sun, whether they owe their origin to the disruption of some planet, whether they follow in the train of a comet, and are brought in among us from some distant solar system, or whether they are separate condensations of the primeval nebulae, we may not now certainly determine. But they are of celestial origin, and this discovery shows the identity of life in the universe, as the spectroscope shows identity of matter.

The first proof of this identity of matter came also from meteorites. The large majority of these celestial bodies is composed of iron. With some of them are mixed up various feldspathic minerals, and occasionally iron is entirely absent, but in no case has any element been found which does not also exist on the earth. Then came the revelations of the spectroscope, proving the presence of terrestrial elements in the heated atmosphere of the sun, in the cooler atmospheres of some of the planets, in the suns whose light comes to us across the tremendous stretch of darkness which separates our system from other solar systems, in the nebulae where the glowing gases reveal solar systems in their early stages of development. All the spectral lines do not seem to have their terrestrial counterparts, and one substance appears to belong so exclusively to the sun, that to it the name helium has been given. But the iron, the hydrogen, the magnesium, the calcium and several other elements, when vaporized in the suns of space, respond to the vibrations impressed on them, just as do the same elements on the earth. This community of matter through the universe as was shown in the case of

oxygen, our most common terrestrial element, may for a long time escape complete detection, but as a general truth it is sufficiently obvious. If the community of life show itself in the case of Dr. Hahn's meteorite it is taking the exact step in organized, which has been followed by such conclusive evidence in unorganized, matter.

The presence of organized matter on meteorites was long ago suspected from the presence of carbon, that element which, on the earth, is so essential to life. Soft masses of stone have been picked up in Cape Colony, which formed part of the debris of an exploded meteorite, and which chemical analysis showed to contain a fraction of one per cent. of organic matter.

We must add to this the additional fact that the spectrum of comets gives, beside a faint continuous spectrum of reflected sun-light, the three bright bands which belong to carbon. The chemistry of carbon is the chemistry of organic compounds, and its presence in comets adds further confirmation to the presence of organized life in the celestial spaces.

This has an important connection also with the question of meteoric life. It is no longer doubtful that an intimate relation exists between comets and meteors. The meteors which we shall witness about the 10th of August next, unless the full moon obscure their feebler light, are part of a great ring of small bodies which move around the sun in an orbit with which the part of a small comet which visited the earthly neighborhood in 1862 intimately coincides. The Lyrid and the Leonid showers of meteors which visit us on the 20th of April and 14th of November respectively have comets which keep them close company in their huge orbits around the sun. Still more striking is the relation in the case of the Andromedes of the 27th of November. In 1872 the astronomical world was on the lookout for the return of Biela's Comet, which had previously excited attention by its curious separation into two parts, each one a complete comet in itself. It was to pass very close to the earth, and was to approach it from the direction of the constellation Andromeda. The comet did not come, and it has never since been seen; but from that identical spot in the heavens came an abundant shower of meteors; they rained down on England at the rate of thousands per hour. Where the comet went to we do not know, but by some mysterious transformation its orbit was usurped by a cluster of meteoroids.

Glowing gaseous carbon in comets as indicated by their spectra, is then a fact altogether in harmony with the solid carbon of meteorites and the fossil organisms of Dr. Hahn. They all point toward the conclusion that life, and life which at least in the form of its physical embodiment resembles in some respects terrestrial life, exists elsewhere among the masses which belong to the family of our sun.

They point farther than this. It is known that many if not all of the comets did not primarily belong to the solar system. They are wandering messengers through celestial space from sun to sun, which pay us a brief visit, whirl around the sun, and rush off again. The few that are periodic have probably been made so by the attraction of planets, notably of Jupiter, which checks their speed and enchains them within reach of the solar influence. The carbon which they bear to us may not be carbon which they have picked up in this little system of ours, but a fragment of life which they have borne from some exterior sun. It begins to look as if the hypothesis of Sir William Thompson, made several years ago to account for the presence of life on this planet, and so supply to evolutionists a place of beginning, that the first germ was brought here by a wandering comet, might not be absolutely devoid of foundation.

Important results await the discovery of the cause and origin of meteorites and the reason of the connection which exists between them and comets. A flood of light on a number of important questions relating to the structure and character of the universe would be thrown by such a discovery, which seems necessary to coordinate the many important facts which recent science has accumulated. The time is ripe for research in this field, and the desired knowledge will not be long delayed. Hahn. O. Die Meteorite und ihre Organismen—Laupp, Tübingen, 1881.

THE CHANNING CENTENARY.—In the "Channing Centenary Volumes," Dr. Russell N. Bellows has brought together reports more or less complete of the principal memorial meetings held in Europe and America on the one hundredth anniversary of William Ellery Channing's birth, in April of last year. The delay in publication, rendered inevitable by the publisher's decision to make the volume much more comprehensive than was originally intended, can hardly be said to have been prejudicial or injurious, since it has resulted in the preparation of a really monumental work, which has the advantage of "appearing when the times are ripe." The width and depth of public interest in the celebration, as is well observed in the introduction, surpassed the expectation of even Dr. Channing's most faithful disciples and ardent friends, and while this display of intelligent sympathy revealed the extent of the study of his life and writings, it must also have served to stimulate to that study a large new constituency of readers on both sides of the Atlantic. "To preserve and present in a form convenient for students, whether of Dr. Channing's life, character and teachings, or of the present tendencies of liberal religious thought, this somewhat remarkable body of testimony, is," says the compiler, "the purpose of this volume. Seldom before have so many noted and worthy men of widely different religious opinions joined their voices in a chorus of praise at once so hearty, so generous and so discriminating." The intellectual diamond is shown in every light, the moral landscape is examined from every point of view. It will perhaps be enough for American readers to say that among the contributors to this volume mentioned in the first page of the index are President Eliot, James T. Fields, Longfellow, Whittier, Henry W. Bellows, Charles T. Brooks, Bishops Huntington and Clark, William Lloyd Garrison, Julia Ward Howe, James Freeman Clarke, Edward Everett Hale, William H. Channing, Minot J. Savage, A. Bronson Alcott and James Martineau, a notable bead-roll of genius and talent indeed. There is, it may be also noted, an excellent report of Mr. Beecher's address in Brooklyn, really one of the finest and most graceful of his recent oratorical efforts, while Mr. John Fretwell's remarkable letter on the influence exercised by Channing

on the different peoples of Europe possesses the very highest value, and will perhaps surprise not a few Americans who are far from being careless or casual students of his life and teachings. The "Centenary Volume" is illustrated with a fine heliotype from the marble bust by Sidney H. Morse. Boston: Geo. H. Ellis. 1881. Pp. 532.

A NIHILIST PRINCESS.—It was to be expected that the troubles that render Russia an awful spectacle before the world should sooner or later find their way into literature. The first of what will undoubtedly prove a rich field to the writer of fiction has been received in "A Nihilist Princess" from the French by M. L. Gagneur. The story, which the translator endeavors to connect with some of the more recently exposed Nihilists, can hardly be said to be very powerful, as it is evidently written by one who has no better knowledge of Nihilism than can be obtained from encyclopedias, magazines and newspaper files, of the last twenty years. "A Nihilist Princess" does not therefore impress the reader as being a vivid portrayal of the tremendous influences and methods of Nihilism, and will disappoint anybody who takes up the book expecting this. The great novel that is destined of course to come is not found in this book of M. Gagneur's. Nevertheless, there is a certain fascination about the book, with its revolutionary red in the binding, derived partly from the fact that it is a novel woven from what has been news and wonder of the world for two years past, and partly because it is the forerunner of a literature of Nihilism. The name of the translator is not affixed. The book is also subject to criticism for some errors in proof reading. It is attractively bound and the type is good. Jansen, McClurg & Co., Chicago. 1881. Pp. 366.

ON THE SUNRISE SLOPE.—This title has been chosen by Miss Catherine E. Conway for a small volume of her poems, to which the Rev. Patrick Cronin of Buffalo has prefixed a preface so laudatory as to at once raise a feeling of distrust of the writer in the mind of the reader. The fifty-eight poems which are comprised in the volume, five of which are translations from the French, show merit and a perfect appreciation of metre, though that chosen is not always the most forcible, but are permeated in every line with the griefs and crosses of an unhappily clouded life. Miss Conway has evidently been unfortunate and we could have wished that there had been a little more sunshine and a little less shadow in her poems. The volume is well printed and handsomely bound. The Catholic Publication Society Co., New York: 1881. Pp. 153.

AUTHORS AND PUBLISHERS.

MESSRS. SCRIBNER & CO., publishers of *Scribner's Monthly*, *Saint Nicholas*, "The Spiritual Song Series," etc., changed their corporate title on the 21st ult., to "The Century Co.," the July numbers of their magazine bearing the new corporate imprint. The title of *Scribner's Monthly* will be changed to *The Century* with the next number.

Messrs Ford, Howard & Hulbert will publish at once a new novel, "The Fate of Madame La Tour," by Mrs. A. G. Paddock, who has lived in Utah for many years, and who, although a Gentile and the wife of a Gentile, has lived upon the most intimate terms with the Mormons. Through this acquaintance and the establishment of mutual confidence, Mrs. Paddock came into possession of many facts, which she has used to set off the true story of Madame La Tour. The author's trustworthiness is vouched for by such authorities as the Governor of Utah and Mr. Whittier, and the volume promises to be an interesting contribution to that important and popular class of works already illustrated by Judge Tourgee's books and "Ploughed Under."

Messrs Houghton, Mifflin & Co. are to publish the American edition of Mr. Joseph Thomson's "To the Central African Lakes and Back." It might be suggested that a timely book would be a small volume, containing the essence of the recent publications on Africa, which are both numerous, valuable and interesting, and perhaps a companion book on the Arctic research of the last six years would be found acceptable.

Messrs. E. & J. B. Young & Co., announce a new volume of sermons, "The Mystery of the Passion of Our Blessed Redeemer," by the Rev. W. J. Knox Little, a clergyman well known in both countries.

The first volume of the "History of Woman Suffrage," edited by Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Susan B. Anthony and Matilda Joslyn Gage, has just been published.

The Secretary of the Treasury has ordered the compilation of an interesting volume, a history of Civil Service Examinations in this country.

General Beauregard's new book has been erroneously announced in certain literary journals as on the eve of publication. In a private letter the General says that he cannot yet determine when it will be ready, but probably in 1882. Unless General Sherman has experienced a radical change of mind, the stories that he intends bringing out a new edition of his "Memoirs" are equally baseless. His intention always has been to leave the "Memoirs" in their present form during his lifetime.

The *Chicago Times* is not convinced that the Chicago Public Library is a remunerative enterprise. Of all the English books taken out last year, it says, 71½ per cent. were prose fiction, about 8 per cent. historical and dramatic, and about 10 per cent. works relating to travel, science and art. If the comparison were made of the ratio of circulation to books of each kind on the shelves, the showing would be even more remarkable in favor of fiction.

American books and magazines elbow their way sturdily into the literary columns of the English periodicals. Of Mr. W. Hamilton Gibson's "Pastoral Days," just re-issued by Chatto & Windus, the aristocratic *Morning Post* says, "It is full of engravings in the highest style of American art, and, therefore, it is almost superfluous to say that it is a charming book. Most people are now familiar with that wonderful delicacy and finish which the American engraver imparts to his work, and with which, perhaps, the printer's art has not a little to say." And the same journal remarks of Dr. Abel Stevens's "Mme. de Staël," published in England by Murray, that "it is beyond doubt far the best treatise on this gifted lady which has appeared in the English language."

Mr. Thomas Gibbons, an English author who drifted into the American naval service some years ago, has announced a volume of Travel Notes under the title of "Boxing the Compass," treating of such topics as early voyagers to China, Chinese ceremonies, customs and superstitions, Siam and the worship of the White Elephant, the first Englishman in Japan, and the like. Mr. Gibbons has already written several curious books, and among them "The American Expedition to Corea," and "The Way to Ichang."

Professor A. H. Sayce has made an important contribution to Hebrew literature and history in his essay on the Hebrew inscription recently discovered at Jerusalem, on the rock wall of a subterranean tunnel hewn through the southern part of the Temple Hill, and serving to conduct the water of the so-called "Spring of the Virgin" to the Pool of Siloam. This interesting and valuable inscription was discovered by accident and recovered with difficulty. A boy fell into the conduit, and when he came to the sur-

face thought he noticed characters cut in the wall, mentioning the fact to a German architect settled in Jerusalem. On his examination and report, the Palestine Exploration Fund contributed money for drawing off the water flowing through the passage, and a copy was taken with great difficulty, as the tunnel was pitch dark and swarmed with mosquitoes, and the copyist had to sit in about four inches of mud and water, in a space not two feet broad, exposed to all the effluvia of a subterranean drain. Moreover, the characters had been filled with a hard deposit of lime, as well as damaged by every accidental scratch in the stone, and could therefore be only traced by one who was thoroughly acquainted with Semitic palaeography. While the characters are identical in form with those of the famous Moabite Stone, there are three which are yet more archaic—this would point to an earlier date than the ninth century, B. C. The Pool of Siloam is called simply "The Pool," implying that there was no other artificial reservoir in existence at the time, whereas there were at least two or three in the age of Isaiah. And the locality from which the tunnel started is called Yerah or Yeru, which seems to explain Genesis xxii. 14 as well as the compound name Jeru-salem, regarded as a dual by the Hebrew punctuators. In any case, the inscription is the oldest Hebrew document of the kind, and presents the most ancient form of the Phœnician alphabet yet discovered, besides throwing light on the topography of the eastern side of the Holy City. It also settles the length of the Hebrew cubit, as it states that the tunnel was 1,000 cubits long. The language is for the most part that of the Old Testament, though there are one or two new words and grammatical forms, and the usual rendering of a particular word used in the Book of Kings is corrected. Perhaps, however, the chief interest of the inscription lies in the indication it affords of the extent to which writing was known and practiced among the Jews in the early period to which it belongs. Its discovery leads to hope that similar early records may be found when "underground Jerusalem" can be explored.

The British Museum had last year 839,374 visitors, including 133,842 who went to the reading-rooms for purposes of study and research. During the year there were acquired 441 manuscripts, 226 rolls and charters, 24 detached seals, and 111 Oriental manuscripts, including a volume containing 85 portraits of Emperors of China, with historical notices, and 99 colored drawings of men and women of different classes and trades. Among the new acquisitions in the department of printed books are a considerable number of rare Mexican books, bought at the sale of the remarkable collection formed by the late Don José Fernando Ramirez, President of the Emperor Maximilian's first ministry. Amongst them are a few of the earliest productions of the Spanish-American press, and some very curious and rare works in the various native languages. Perhaps the most curious book is a volume containing the works by Alonzo Gutierrez, called De Vera Cruce, a Spanish missionary, entitled respectively "Recognitio Summularum" and "Dialectica Resolutio cum textu Aristotelis." They were both printed in Mexico by Juan de Pablos in 1584, and are both of excessive rarity. Bound up with them are two leaves of the Agave paper, such as was used by the Indians before the conquest of the country by the Spaniards. But the chief interest to the English student consists in the fact that the title of the second of these works is enclosed in the identical wood-cut border used by the English printer, Edward Whitchurch, for his edition of the first Prayerbook of Edward VI. in 1549, and which seems afterwards to have been exported to Mexico. It bears the initials of Whitchurch, "E. W.," but the emblem of the bleeding heart has been substituted for the arms of Queen Catharine Parr, which previously appeared in a shield at the foot of the title.

"The Marriage of Time. A Rhymed Story," by "Ambofilus," is the most remarkable volume lately issued from the English press. It contains 223 mortal pages of "rhymed verse," of which the following is rather a favorable specimen:

My name, good sir, is Ambofilus;
My father is a Minister of State.
He's often told me he felt bilious
When he had to take part in some debate.

Victor Hugo's "Quatre Vents de l'Esprit" contains a very clever and characteristic epic poem, wherein the statues of Henry IV., Louis XIII. and Louis XIV. traverse Paris at midnight in search of their descendants, and chance upon the lopped head of Louis XVI., as it is falling from the guillotine. Some of the satirical verses are worthy of the poet's fame, though often disguised by his boundless egotism, but incomparably the best work is to be found in the lyrical poems, many of which recall in their freshness and grace the "Chansons des Rues el des Bois."

Mme. de Remusat's letters to her husband, during the period 1805-1814, while they are charming in style and spirit, will be found disappointing to readers who look for a continuation of the famous "Memoirs." Their principal historical value consists in the graphic picture which is given of the deadness and distress of Paris during the days of the Emperor's greatest glory, at the time of the victories of Austerlitz and Jena, a subject to which Metternich adverts repeatedly in his own volumes.

One of the most interesting volumes published this summer at Paris is the correspondence of the Abbé Galiani, one of the most brilliant *causeurs* of the last century, with Mme. d'Epinay, the volume of which has just been brought out by Colmann Lévy.

A book which will prove an interesting supplement to Edouard Fournier's "L'Esprit dans l'Histoire," and "L'Esprit des Auteurs," is M. Lucien Rigaud's "Dictionnaire des Lieux Communs," a collection of all the stock phrases of the French journalists and litterateurs, with examples, anecdotes, etc. Napoleon was a terrible consumer of these phrases, as is shown by a relentless examination of his bulletins, dispatches and speeches.

M. Emile Littré's death makes of interest some statistics as to his monumental "Dictionary." The first "copy" was delivered to the printers, September 27th, 1859, and the last July 4th, 1872, the total number of sheets (not including the supplement) being 415,636. There were 2,242 sheets set up, while the additions made in proof amounted to 292 pages, each of three columns. The body of the Dictionary, excluding the supplement, represents a column of solid printed matter twenty-four miles long.

Fourier's oldest disciple has just died at the great age of ninety-four. M. Just Muiron, who succeeded in raising the funds wherewith Fourier was enabled to give to the world in 1822 his "Traité de l'Association Domestique Agricole."

Father Curci, the eminent ex-Jesuit theologian, has submitted to the Congregation of the Index and withdrawn his obnoxious book, "The New Italy and the Old Zealots," in which he had urged upon the Church the necessity of her adapting herself to the democratic form of modern society, of reforming herself and of separating from the State and her wealth which has impaired her spirituality. In it he also recommended a return to the primitive mode (within certain limits) of electing the Bishops by the Clergy and people unitedly.

A German author, Herr A. von Reumont, has taken up the cudgels against a living Italian litterateur and a dead French academician, whom he charges of flat plagiarism. Of Signor Ulrico Hoepli's translation of his "Biography of Gino Capponi," he complains that the title has been changed to "Gino Capponi and His Times," and the reader is not told that the book is a translation. In the next place it had been his expressed wish that no Italian version of it should be made, as the work was written for Germans, and Tabarrini's excellent book on the same subject was already in existence. Besides this, the translation, from beginning to end, is incredibly bad. Herr von Reumont also attacks the late M. St. René Taillandier, who for many years hardly did

anything else than translate German books into French, and who, he says, stole nearly the whole of his (Von Reumont's) "Countess of Albany," and published it in France as his own work, showing, in what was original in his book, that he knew through personal research nothing whatever about the Countess and her connection with Alferi, although he had lived long close to the library in Montpellier, where there was an abundant collection of documents throwing light on the subject.

The fourth edition of James R. Osgood & Co's guide to "The White Mountains," comes opportunely from the press at the opening of the travel season. This guide book modeled on the ever incomparable "Bödekers," is exactly what any one who visits the White Mountains requires. It is accurate, full, honest and portable, and will prove the traveller's most faithful companion. In typography and binding it could not be improved.

DRIFT.

—General W. T. Sherman's letters are always good reading, and the following extracts from one of recent date may not prove uninteresting to readers of THE AMERICAN: "I doubt if Badeau could have squeezed his material into one volume. I think all such books are merely material for the Future Historian, who will be the better able to condense. . . . Movements of flying columns from one base or district to another have been practised ever since the world began. We have sent out such expeditions from Fort Leavenworth to the Indian country, to New Mexico, to Utah, thousands of miles, and though mine from Atlanta to Savannah, 300 miles, and from Savannah to Goldsboro', 450 miles, have been pronounced by Jeff. Davis as in violation of all the rules of war (therefore ought to have failed—though they did not fail!), that approved by himself and conducted by his military hero Sidney Johnston, from Fort Leavenworth to Utah in 1857—1200 miles—was O K and eminently right. I, of course, expected Jeff. Davis to attack Grant, Hooker, Lincoln, myself and everybody who would not submit to his dictation, but his hits at Joe Johnston and Hood are ungenerous in the highest degree. In one paragraph he demonstrates the importance of Atlanta by reason of its arsenals, factories, and geographical location, removes Joe Johnston and appoints Hood to defend it, and then abuses me for treating the place, when captured, as a military conquest. Again he abuses Hood for his invasion of Tennessee and calls it a wild-goose chase—now, I know that when Jeff. Davis came to Georgia to visit Hood's army after it had been driven out of Atlanta, he made the soldiers a speech, which was heard by one of my spies and was reported to me the next day, to the effect that they were about to begin a campaign in which the Tennessee and Kentucky troops would tread their native soil again, and by cutting off my supplies would compel me to retreat, and they would make that retreat more disastrous than was Napoleon's from Moscow. He then knew Hood was going to invade Tennessee—that was in September or October, 1864, —two months before the event. He was then General Hood's Commander-in-Chief, and if his then contemplated invasion of Tennessee was the action of a 'madcap on the wildest of wildgoose chases,' he—Davis—is responsible. I think the weakest part of Davis's 'Rise and Fall' is in his taking refuge in possibilities—what might have been if so and so had not happened. If Sidney Johnston had not been killed we at Shiloh would not have been living—if Stonewall Jackson had been in Hood's place there would not have been a March to the Sea, &c. History deals with what was and is, and 'tis folly to discuss what might have been. Such discussions are idle and mischievous. Davis was recognized as Commander-in-Chief of the Confederate army and his orders were obeyed as absolutely as were those of Mr. Lincoln. He had the widest possible range for his choice of leaders, and if he made a bad choice, on him and him alone, rests the responsibility. I think his reported remarks at Indianapolis of June 10 will damage his reputation even more than his 'History.' Supplemental to my Hartford speech, I had at the time in hand the original report of the name every man, woman and child who was removed from Atlanta to the South, with the number of packages carried out by each. I now have a copy and have added up the quantities. Davis records that the 'few articles' these poor Exiles were allowed to take away were plundered by the guard sent along. I give the recapitulation, and in due time the whole will be published. Adults, 705; children, 807; servants (slaves), 79; total, 1,651. Packages of baggage, 8,842; horses, 9; cows, 19; calves, 6; wagons, 2; drays, 2; carriages and buggies, 2."

In the *Modern Review*, in the course of an article on "The Medical Profession and its Morality," the writer says: "What are the motives of those luminaries who recommend all the bad wines and sickly beverages which we see advertised every day in the newspapers? A more certain way of promoting disease than the recommendation of some of this rubbish is scarcely conceivable. An American medical man was recently offered £1,000 to puff one of these drinks (by no means the worst) and act as its usher to the New York market. This doctor, being honest, declined the bribe."

Professor David Swing, the well known Chicago preacher, takes a very optimistic view of the modern household in America. The age, he says, is economical as well as extravagant, "nor is this a fashion that will suddenly change. Beauty and simplicity have been many centuries in finding each other, but they have met not to part. Common sense has issued a decree to the effect that a small house is as honorable as a large one, and that pine is as noble as black walnut, and that a neat wooden floor is just as awfully sweet as ever was an Axminster. The same taste and common sense mingled have turned gold and silver table ware into glass, and all the poor young folks smile with delight at the reform."

An interesting scientific expedition is that which sets out next week under the charge of Professor S. P. Langley, Director of the Allegheny Observatory, to determine by actual experiment the amount of heat given by the sun to the earth. A resident of Pittsburgh defrays the expenses of the expedition, and will not allow his name to be made public. To attain its special object the expedition must seek one of the most elevated summits on the continent, in an extremely arid region, these two conditions being essential. These are found in Arizona and Southern California, where stations 3,000 and 14,000 feet respectively above the sea level have been selected, to permit of observations under different atmospheric conditions. One of the objects of the expedition will be to prove by a new class of experiments a curious conclusion which Prof. Langley has already arrived at: to the effect that the sun is not really a white, or yellow, or even a red object; but that sunlight is in reality blue.

—Dr. Julia Holmes Smith, in an essay in a western magazine, justly and generously extols the virtues of "Southern women," and tells this story to show that the women North and South were not radically different in nature: "At a dinner party in New Haven in 1863 I heard a lady wish she had a great broom to sweep the whole South into the Gulf. She had just given her lover to be a chaplain. One year later, in Georgia, an older woman said: 'Well, I just wish I could drive those Yankees into the Artic ocean.' The Georgia woman had just lost a mule."

—In the current number of the *Contemporary Review* there is the startling assertion that Mr. Ernest Renan and the Tempter are one and the same old and wicked indi-

vidual. The author says that "it is in the garden of Eden M. Renan first makes his appearance on the field of history."

—There is reason in all things, even in the roasting of eggs, and, judging from this announcement, from a French newspaper, there is moderation in all things, even in the blowing up of Emperors, or, at least, in their notification to them of their fate: "The Czar has received a fresh manifesto from the Executive Committee conceived in very moderate terms, and announcing to him that he is condemned to death."

—The widow of the poet Uhland died a little while ago at Stuttgart. She and her husband were almost inseparable companions, and one of the few occasions on which either appeared in public without the other was when Uhland's "Duke Ernest" was first represented. He had begged her to see the play alone, since, "for his part, he couldn't bear those historical plays."

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE LITERATURE OF GEOGRAPHY.

To the Editor of THE AMERICAN.

BOSTON, June 26th, 1881.

SIR:—Having just read your small paragraph on page 157 of the issue of June 18th, 1881, of THE AMERICAN, in which you show the interest attached to bibliography, I thought you and perhaps your readers also might be interested in knowing that the Paris Geographical Society had some time ago instructed me to prepare a list or catalogue of the various bibliographies published concerning the geography of the various countries of the world, excluding however such countries as France, England and Germany.

I have thus far gathered 1141 titles, thus divided: Europe, 361; Asia, 180; Africa, 68; America, 332; Oceanica, 31; polar regions, 16; oceans, hydrography, 9; travels, travelling geographers, 107; miscellaneous, general subjects, 37; total 1141.

Before leaving Paris last winter I went to print with 533 titles, the balance (608) being the result of my researches in the various libraries of this country (New York, Astor; Washington, Congress; Boston, Athenæum and Public; Cambridge, Harvard College) which have all been opened to me with such freedom and advantage, that I cannot but heartily sympathize with the views expressed in your article "The Modern Public Library," on page 151 of your number of June 28th, 1881.

I have the honor to be, sir, very respectfully yours,

JAMES JACKSON.

P. S.—My impression is that you are mistaken in stating that the *Library Journal* is "the first periodical ever published by and for librarians." It may be true for America, but certainly not for Europe. Petzholdt's "Anzeiger" and *Neuer Anzeiger für Bibliographie und Bibliothekswissenschaft* has been some forty odd years in existence and is one among others that would answer perfectly your description.

AMERICAN EXCAVATIONS AT ASSOS.

ASSOS, ASIA MINOR, June 6, 1881.

To the Editor of THE AMERICAN.

Archæological investigations have hitherto been generally directed to sites of historical or literary importance, to Olympia and Troy, to Ephesus and Halicarnassus. Interesting and valuable as such explorations undoubtedly are, the student of Greek life must complete their results by the study of architecture and art. It is comparatively of little importance to him whether Bournabashi or Hissarlik is the real site of Troy; he is rather occupied with the characteristics of the remains discovered, and the state of civilization which they indicate.

With such scientific needs in view the archæological Institute of America has selected for the site of its first active work a place which presents in as perfect a state as possible all the characteristics of an ancient Greek city. This is Assos, little known in history save as the residence for a time of Xenocrates and Aristotle, and the point of departure of the Apostle Paul upon one of his voyages. It was colonized from Lesbos about 1030 B. C., and reached the height of its prosperity during the reign of Alexander the Great. Here the expedition of the Institute arrived about a month ago, and having made a complete survey of the city and its surroundings, are now about to begin the work of excavation. The object of the expedition is to make a study of the remains of the city,—to restore its temples and other public buildings, and to locate its streets, its houses and its walls. The value which archæological science will be likely to derive from this study may be partially determined by a glance at such features of the city as have been observed during the work of the past month.

The most remarkable fact about Assos is its wonderful situation. The Greeks were lovers of altitude. Desire for a beautiful location as well as the necessity for defence led them to select an acropolis as the site of their temples; but the conformation of the ground seldom permitted a whole city to be built on the top of a mountain, as was the case with Assos. This mountain is a peak in that chain of Ida which borders the southern coast of the Troad. It rises abruptly from the sea; the first two hundred feet forming a precipice that hangs over the water and hides all traces of the city from the shore below. The rest of the mountain is of more gradual ascent with the exception of the volcanic cliff that towers at the top and formerly constituted the acropolis. This rises perpendicularly to a height of a hundred and fifty feet. Around and below it was built the ancient city: and here the ruins now lie, metope and triglyph, column and capital, tumbling in wild disorder down the slopes of the mountain as far as the edge of the precipice that hangs over the sea. The ascent of the acropolis is steep and difficult. It is accessible only on the north or inland side, by a path that winds around among the rocks. After a toilsome climb you stand upon the summit, 1000 feet above sea level. The Gulf of Adramyttium is far below you. Upon the east you look over Lectum and the Ægean, upon the south beyond the blue gulf lies Mytilene, the ancient Lesbos; and upon the north and west extend the rocky ridges of the Troad, with Ida rising in the distance over all. No city in all the Greek lands was as nobly situated as this. Its position made it an important stronghold in all ages, and in Strabo's time it was considered impregnable. It was occupied by Greek, Lydian, Persian, Macedonian, Roman and Byzantine, and in the Middle Ages by the Genoese. Most of these powers have left traces behind them, and you can detect amid the ruins the strata of successive civilizations.

The conformation of the ground has assisted very largely in preserving the characteristics of the city, and in spite of the devastation of earthquake and Turk, it can still be restored in all essential parts from such data as the remains afford. Scattered over the acropolis and the rocks at its base are many of the stones of an archaic Doric temple analogous to those at Paestum, the date of which is probably anterior to the year 500 B. C. Its blocks are well preserved, and a restoration can easily be made. The position of the fortification walls has been determined by the survey. Upon the east, north and west, these walls rise in many places to a height of thirty feet, commanding by their angles and square towers all the approaches to the city. They are of Greek date, probably of the Macedonian period, and are built of large blocks of grey volcanic stone, carefully cut and laid without cement. Such is the perfection of this work that the Romans could not improve upon it. It displays great engineering skill, and presents, in the opinion of Texier, the most beautiful example of Hellenic construction that the centuries have preserved. Within these fortifications are the remains of a Pelasgic wall

built of irregular polygonal blocks, like the stone work at Mykenae. This indicates an early date for the city of Assos. Outside the walls, along the Sacred Way that led to the main entrance of the city, are scattered there remains of a large number of tombs, which have been broken open in the search for treasure. They are good examples of late Greek art. By far the most interesting portion of the city is that which lies upon the southern slope of the mountain. Herethe ascent is so steep that the ground was cut into a series of terraces, and in many places stairways took the place of streets. Judging from the richness of the remains, the more elegant structures of the city probably stood here. Just below the perpendicular cliff of the acropolis are the ruins of a stoa or covered promenade, which extend from one side of the city to the other, affording a wide prospect over the waters of the gulf to Lesbos and the more remote islands of the Ægean. The remaining column and walls of this stoa are extremely beautiful. Still farther down the slope the outlines of a large theatre can be plainly traced. This whole southern side of the mountain is thickly covered by the stones of the old city.

The work of excavation will undoubtedly reveal a large number of missing members, and enable a complete restoration of many of the buildings to be made. Of others sufficient data will probably be obtained to suggest the main features of the structure. Thus Assos will rise from its ruins; temple and theatre, stoa and agora will take form again, until the typical Greek city will appear, in drawing at least, perfect in all its parts. The value of such a study cannot be easily estimated. We already possess a systematic knowledge of Greek architecture; we are familiar with the proportions and dimensions of its buildings, but never before has so good an opportunity occurred as is offered by the remains of Assos to study the general features of a Greek city,—the position, arrangement and relation of the different parts. From a scientific examination of these remains, we shall gain a more intimate knowledge of the daily life of the Greeks.

That part of the Troad which lies in the immediate neighborhood of Assos deserves some attention. It is a mountainous country, some of the peaks being irregular volcanic rock covered with low shrubs. Deep ravines, wild and irregular, run between ridges, widening here and there into cultivated valleys. Upon the slopes of the hills are Turkish villages, the small square houses of which, built of gray stone, cannot be easily distinguished at a distance from the native rock. You will often meet the inhabitants of these villages upon the mountains, bringing wood or grain upon the backs of donkeys and camels to Bayram, which stands upon the site of the ancient harbor of Assos, and serves as a port for the surrounding region. It is a picturesque little seaport, with its five low stone houses, its groups of Greek and Turkish sailors, and its half-dozen kaiks. The Institute's party have made their headquarters here, and over a pleasant house that stands close to these float the familiar Stars and Stripes. X.

FINANCE.

NEW YORK, June 29th, 1881.

FIRST and foremost in a review of the financial events of the week that ends to night must come the half-yearly statements of the operations of the Lake Shore, the Michigan Central and the Canada Southern Railroad Companies. There is much food for thought furnished to both speculators and investors in the showing that they present. It needed little brains for the reader of the daily newspapers to appreciate, months ago, the fact that the extraordinary Winter of 1880-81 had inflicted heavy losses on the railroads, curtailing their gross-earnings somewhat, but in a greater proportion increasing their working expenses. The earliest reports made of the net operations of the roads that were storm-smitten and snow-smothered, gave us a foretaste of what might be looked for nearly all around. In the case of the Erie Road, its business for March and April increased considerably, but the greater cost of handling it left the Company with net earnings below those resulting from the smaller business during the corresponding period last year. But there was, nevertheless, wide-spread disappointment when the statements of the so-called Vanderbilt roads were made public. Of course people knew that the Winter had damaged most of the transportation lines, but many of them took the statements that were made regarding the matter as "exaggerations," just as many of them refused to believe the well-substantiated statements that railroad rates were being "cut" until the cold facts were presented by Commissioner Fink's official promulgations. It is not wise in this great growing country to look at all things through darkly blue spectacles, but the wisdom of the serpent is not that of the persons who persistently reject unfavorable statements until their verification comes at a time when it does them no good, if they are speculators, and disturbs their peace of mind if they are investors.

The Lake Shore Company paid its regular rate of dividend—2 per cent. for the quarter. But it was left with a surplus of only \$36,340, against one of \$569,956 at the corresponding date in 1880. There was a decrease of only \$103,000 in the Company's gross earnings for the six months ended June 30 (part of this month, of course, being estimated in the statements,) but the working expenses exceeded those of the same period last year \$460,616. The net earnings consequently were \$563,616 less. By percentages, the working expenses were 61.09 of the earnings this year, against 55.34 for the first six months of 1880. Michigan Central made a sorer showing. Its gross earnings fell off \$281,000, and its expenses increased \$124,000, and the dividends (2½ per cent.) for the six months were not earned by \$26,455, where at the same time in 1880 a surplus of \$110,472 was left after dividends to the amount of 4 per cent. had been paid. In other words, the Michigan Central earned more than 4 per cent. for its stockholders during the first half of the year 1880, while it did not earn 2½ per cent. during the first six months of 1881. There was no dividend whatever paid by Canada Southern. The Company's net earnings decreased \$232,172, and its interest charges were increased \$134,564 by reason of its bonds becoming 5 per cents instead of 3. Now it may be—and it has been—said that the past winter was unexampled and that therefore these statements are exceptional. But there are many railroad men who believe that freight rates saw their highest point for some years in 1880, and besides the increased cost of labor, materials, supplies, etc., is something not related to the extraordinary winter losses of the road, nor are the unprofitable rates at which east-bound traffic has been carried this season the result of unpropitious elements. The Michigan Central road has been deprived of considerable business it formerly enjoyed, by the opening of the independent line of the Grand Trunk of Canada to Chicago. The Lake Shore has been threatened with a loss of the traffic of the Wabash, St. Louis & Pacific railroad, when the latter's Detroit connection with the Great Western of Canada is finished, and it is also menaced on both through and local business by competing lines that are being pushed to completion.

On east bound freight rates the railroad war is still vigorously pursued. It is not likely to be arranged soon, for in addition to the time contracts made by numerous lines, if not by all of them, the water rates have been forced down so low, and the competition of this route has been so stimulated by the ruinously low rates of the railroads that a restoration to old figures would mean to the roads a mutual surrender of business for the season. It is now evident that the west bound freight rates have been "cut," and the cause of this difficulty is not hard to find. At present the New York Central is 3,942 tons and the Pennsylvania 1,732 tons ahead in their west bound shipments of their respective percentages, while the Baltimore and Ohio is 5,178 tons and the Erie 496 tons in deficit.

There is no question that the present situation of affairs between the trunk lines is extremely unsatisfactory, and that more genuine ill-feeling exists between the leading managers at present than at any previous time since the establishment of the Commission under the management of Mr. Albert Fink. It is customary for railroad officials to deny the existence of trouble as long as there is any hope that the public will believe them, and it is only natural that Commissioner Fink should strive to create the impression that rates are being maintained especially on west bound traffic. It must be conceded that the west bound pool has been remarkably successful for several years past; but it is equally true, as is admitted in a confidential circular of the Commissioner, that at present rates are not maintained, and the friends of the present system are alarmed over the threatened breaking up of the combination. Just how much stock jobbery has had to do with the present situation of affairs it may be difficult to determine, but it is known Mr. Vanderbilt at one time was considering the advisability of breaking the market and reducing the value of all railroad securities for the purpose of preventing the completion of competing trunk lines, two or three of which are now under way, and all of which will undoubtedly be completed at an early day. It was argued that if the new lines could be prevented from selling their securities by a general depression of the stock and bond market, any temporary loss to the existing lines would be more than made up by future increased profits. It is claimed by some persons that Mr. Vanderbilt is now, and for some time has been, acting upon conviction of the truth of this theory.

Among the events of the week were the ratification of the contract that conveys the stock of the Panama Railroad Company at 250 to the Lessees Panama Canal Company; the transfer of the controlling interest in the Northern Pacific and the Oregon Railway

and Navigation Companies to the Oregon Transcontinental Company, and the offering of \$39,000,000 to the Hannibal & St. Joseph Railroad Company when it only asked for \$3,000,000.

The stock market has been little more than a brokers' market. A moderate pressure of long stocks has been developed and beyond that the general public has turned a cold shoulder to the speculation. Prices have been feverish and unsettled, and the tendency of the market has been downward. Indeed, the effect of the prevailing unfavorable conditions has been reflected by a considerable shrinkage in the values of the trunk line and other shares. With the hot season upon us and the feeling of operators so disturbed, the Wall Street "bulls" do not feel over-cheerful even with the hope of a stimulated speculation resulting from the July money disbursements before them.

The New York banks again pursued a conservative policy last week as regards their loan and deposit accounts. There was a reduction in the loans of \$1,075,900 and in the deposits of \$666,800, making for the past two weeks a decrease of nearly \$2,000,000 in loans and about the same amount in deposits. The surplus reserve last week was given at \$9,274,200, an increase of \$1,265,800, being 27.70 per cent. of the deposits, against 31.29 per cent. at the same date last year and 29.44 per cent. for the corresponding week in 1879.

The clearances for the week fell below a thousand million dollars but were nearly \$346,000,000 greater than those for the corresponding week in 1880.

The Philadelphia stock market has presented the same unsettled and generally weak features that have characterized the speculation in this city and no special movement has been developed that calls for particular comment.

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